

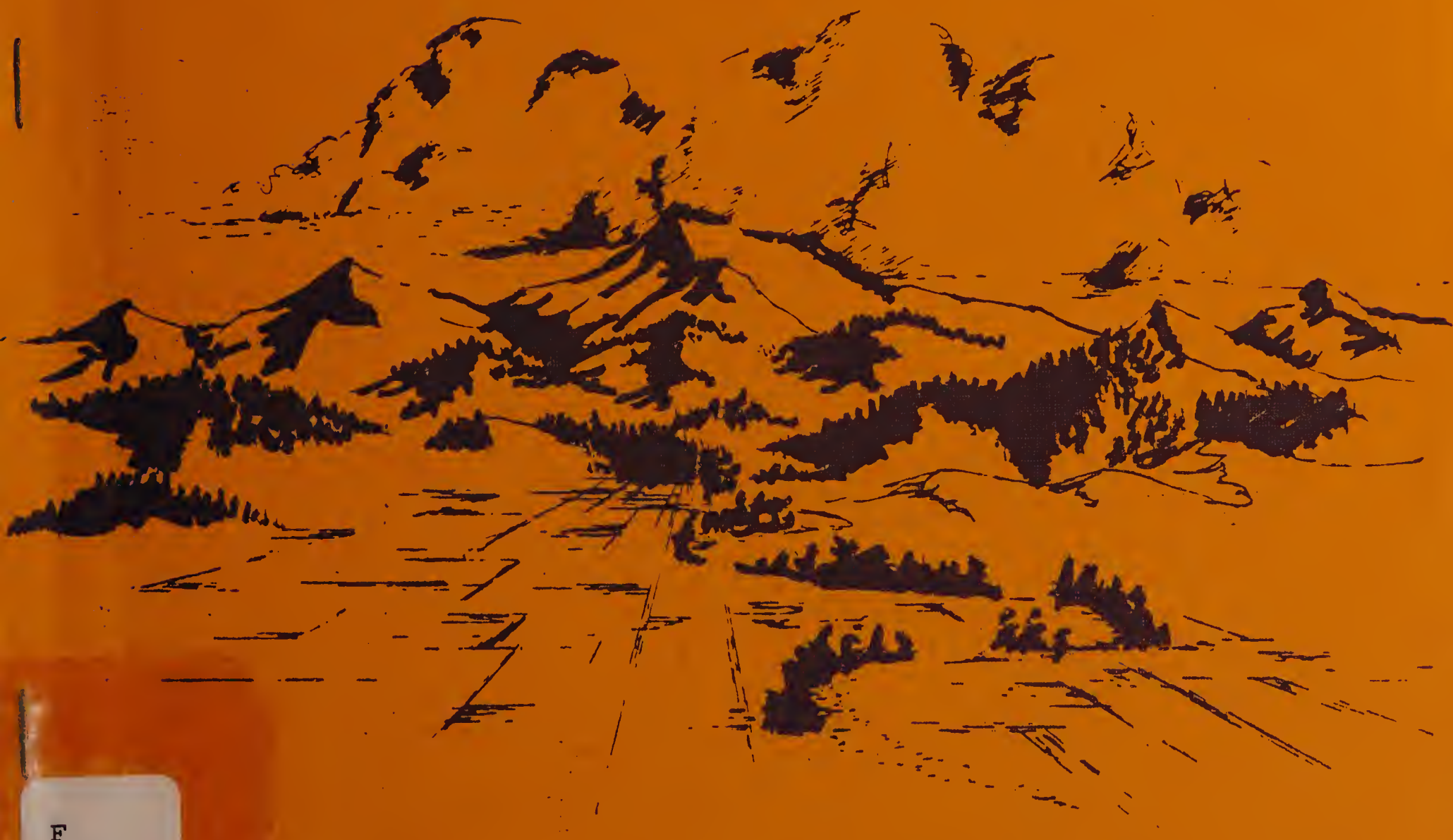
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Historic Resources of the Fortymile

by James Bonewitz
Bureau of Land Management
Fortymile Resource Area
Tok, Alaska



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B663
1977

Resources Development Internship Program
Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education

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Historic Resources of the Fortymile:

Preserving the Past

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prepared for

The Bureau of Land Management
Fortymile Resource Area
Tok, Alaska 99780

by

James Christopher Bonewitz
September 30, 1977

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Denver, Colorado



88018354

ABSTRACT

During the Summer of 1977 the Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area, Alaska, identified several sites which were felt to possess a sufficient amount of historic value to be nominated for placement on the National Register of Historic Places. This study was directed at insuring the preservation of eight selected sites within the earliest gold mining country in the interior of Alaska. A detailed architectural and historical survey was performed for each site. Along with the National Register nominations, the project was designed to fill information gaps in the existing cultural resource inventory of the Fortymile Resource Area's pending Wild and Scenic River withdrawals. Data and evaluations collected in this report will be used by the Bureau of Land Management in developing a management plan for the Fortymile River corridor and in managing the Resource Area.



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the Bureau of Land Management, Alaska, and the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education for providing me the opportunity to gain invaluable experience and knowledge in historic preservation, a field I so much enjoy. I am grateful to all of the personnel of the Fortymile Resource Area for the assistance I received while conducting my research. A special thanks to Les Rosenkrance, Steve Peterson, Jay Thatcher, Marsha Sakalaskas, Cynthia Thurneau, Mike Brown and especially Sheryl McKinsey, all assisting in their special ways.

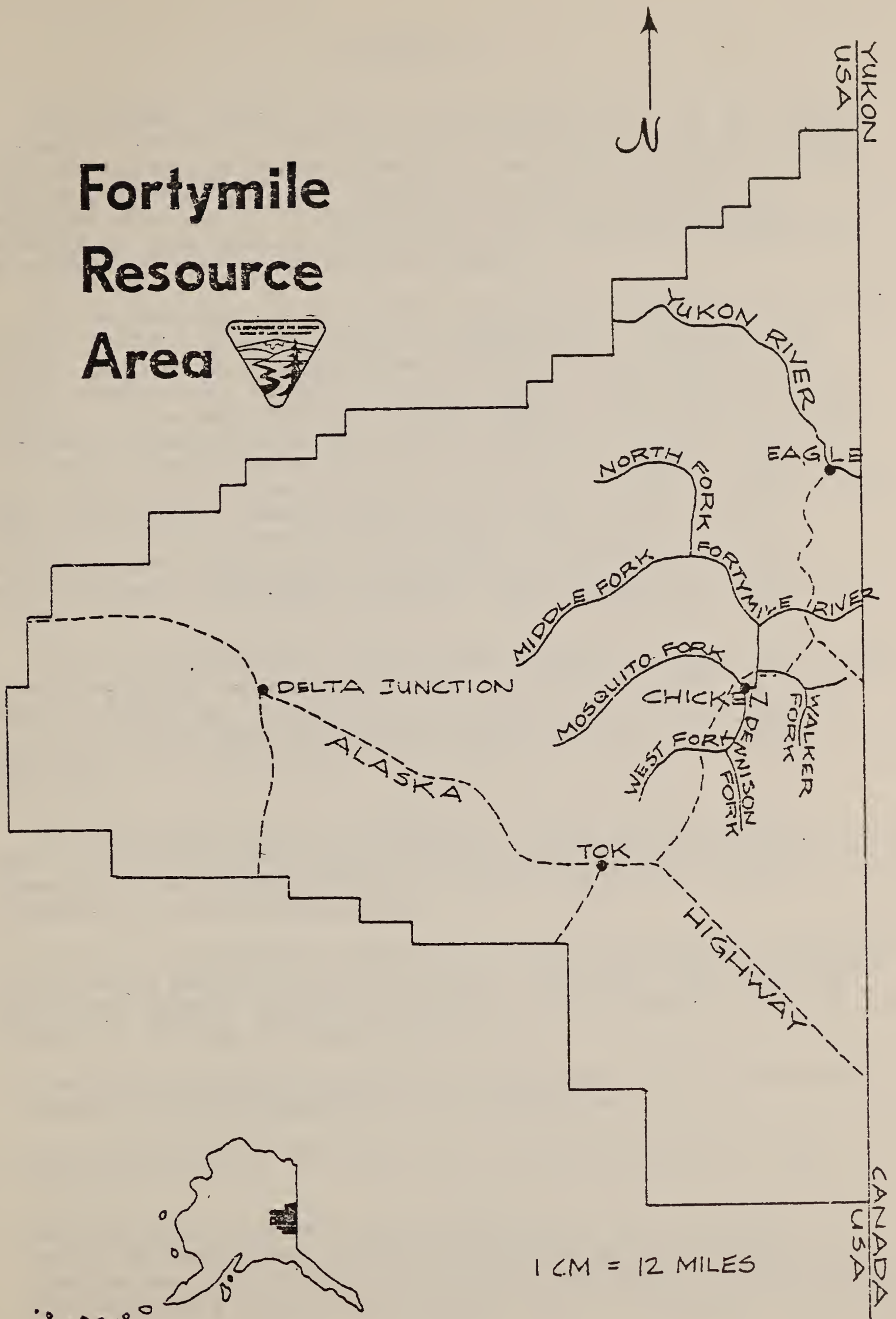
I was fortunate to be working alongside six other WICHE interns; Terry Haynes, Cathy Hinkley, Mike Hudson, Greg Prothman, Linda Simmons, and Pat Quehrn. I greatly appreciate the advice, assistance, and companionship which they offered.

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Fortymile Resource Area



Introduction

The cultural resource value of the Fortymile region is well known in Alaska. Efforts by the Bureau of Land Management in the past years have resulted in an extensive inventory of most of the historic cultural sites on the Fortymile River. During the summer of 1977 work was undertaken which would fill information gaps in the existing historic inventory and upon analysis of the entire area, nominate selected sites to the National Register of Historic Places.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official list of the Nation's cultural resources worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register makes property owners eligible to be considered for Federal grants-in-aid for historic preservation through State programs. Listing also provides protection through comment by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation on the effect of federally financed, assisted, or licensed undertakings on historic properties, as stated in section 106 of the National Preservation Act of 1966 and in Executive Order 11593. Under this order all Federal agencies are charged with the task of "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment", to ensure that any property which may be eligible for the National Register is not inadvertently destroyed or altered. Federal agencies are instructed to contribute to the preservation of non-federal properties also.

Nearly all nominations to the National Register are made by the State through the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer. Although Federal agencies may also nominate properties under their jurisdiction or control through designated Federal Representatives. This process is described in Part 60 of Chapter 1 of Title 36 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

The following criteria are designed to guide the States, Federal agencies, and the Secretary of the Interior in evaluating potential entries (other than areas of the National Park System and National Historic Landmarks) for the National Register.

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- A) that are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or
- B) that are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or
- C) that embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or that represent the work of a master, or that possess high artistic values, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or

D. that have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Eight sites were selected for nomination within the Fortymile Resource Area. They are:

- The Chicken-Franklin Trail
- The Franklin Historic District
- The Jack Wade Dredge
- Mitchell's Ranch
- The Moose Creeh Customs Station Site
- The North Fork WAMCATS Station
- The Steele Creek Roadhouse
- The Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Line

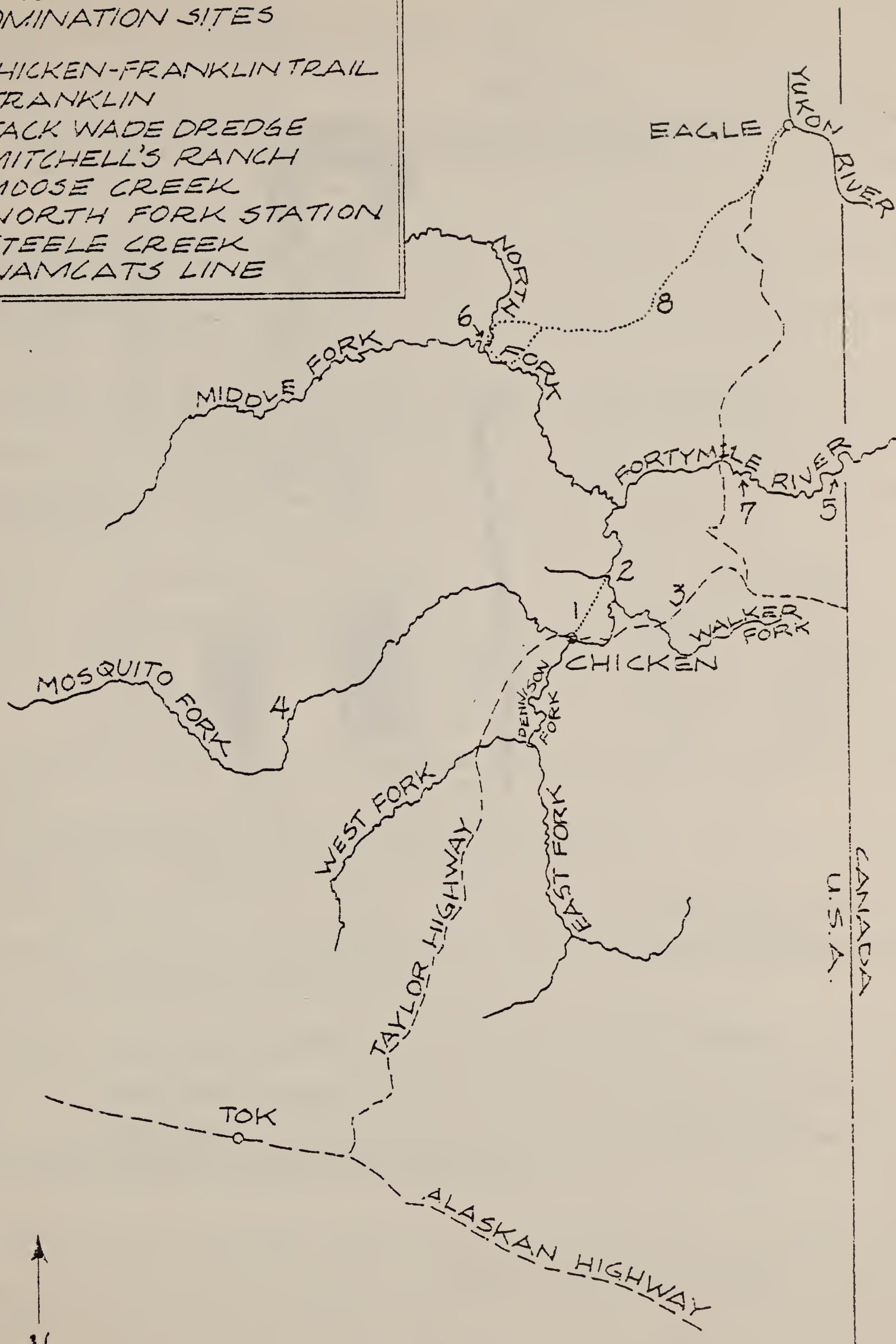
All nominations will be reviewed by the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the National Park Service. The receipt of any nominated property by the National Park Service does not necessarily signify acceptance and entry in the National Register of Historic Places.

Nominated properties, after review and acceptance by the National Park Service, will be entered in the National Register by the Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation. The State Liaison Officer will be notified in writing of the properties entered and the date of entry in the National Register.

All entries in the National Register will be published in the Federal Register as the means of providing official notification to the Federal agencies having responsibilities under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665).

NATIONAL REGISTER
NOMINATION SITES

- 1 CHICKEN-FRANKLIN TRAIL
- 2 FRANKLIN
- 3 JACK WADE DREDGE
- 4 MITCHELL'S RANCH
- 5 MOOSE CREEK
- 6 NORTH FORK STATION
- 7 STEELE CREEK
- 8 WAMCATS LINE



CANADA
U.S.A.



CHICKEN - FRANKLIN TRAIL

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Chicken-Franklin Trail

AND/OR COMMON

Power's Mail Route

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

See attached right of way discription

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chicken

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska

02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE Mining claims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks.

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE.

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks.

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Chicken-Franklin Trail is approximately ten miles in length. Running in a general northeast/southwest direction, the trail originates at the Taylor Highway's milepost 66.4, site of the once flourishing community of Chicken, Alaska. The first two and one half miles of the trail parallels Chicken Creek, following an unimproved, single lane, dirt road. It fords the creek three times in this distance. Evidence of past and present mining activities is evident through the surrounding terrain, as the road over dredge tailings makes a gradual climb of two hundred feet in elevation before the trail becomes inaccessible except by foot or all terrain vehicle, just above the confluence of Stonehouse Creek. On this first two and one half mile section, one passes rustic buildings, abandoned mining machinery, and of special interest the Fairbanks Exploration company's inoperative Pedro or Chicken Dredge. This section of the trail lies on a broad valley floor absent of trees. Willow, alder and low lying shrubs now predominate the area which was and continues to be scoured for gold.

In the next two and one half miles, the trail begins to climb up the south facing slope at an approximate gradient of six degrees. This section is wooded with black spruce and occasional clumps of poplar. In many places on the south aspect section, the footing of the trail becomes extremely wet, almost bog-like as evidenced by deep ruts made by vehicles. There are no structures on this section or is there evidence of man's activities, except for the trail itself. This section of the trail changes character at the top of the ridge. Mosquitos are prolific throughout this section during the summer months.

The third section of the trail, approximately three miles in length, runs through alpine tundra. It follows the ridgeline over several knoles through the high open country where a panoramic view of the Fortymile region can be seen. The trail is overgrown with alder in a few places on this section, but the route is not difficult to trace.

The last two mile section of the Chicken-Franklin Trail is similar in vegetation to that of the second section, but not as wet. This portion descends from the ridge into Franklin. Some parts of the trail are steep, although travel is not hazardous. The South Fork of the Fortymile River becomes visible within one half mile of Franklin and the trail parallels the river the last one quarter mile, ending at Franklin Creek and the historic mining community, site of the first gold strike in interior Alaska.

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1 of 1

It is assumed that the appearance of the trail has changed over the years. The first trail was no doubt a narrow winding one, accomodating foot traffic and horses. When bulldozers were brought into the region, the face of the land change dramaticly. A broader, more easily traversed, trail was made between Chicken and Franklin. It is not certain when the trail was reworked, but the existing route still lies in the same proximity of the original foot trail.

The original trail continues on to Eagle from Franklin, passing through Jack Wade, Polly Summit, Steele Creek, Dome Creek, Liberty, and American Summit. This portion of the Powers Mail Trail remains unsurveyed, yet holds historical significance as well. It would seem logical to include the section between Franklin and Eagle in the National Register once more is known about its exact location and background.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Chicken-Franklin Trail was a vital link in the transportation network of the Fortymile district. Goods of all types were hauled over this route to support the populations of the historic mining communities of Chicken and Franklin.

A famous Alaskan, John Powers, United States commissioner in Eagle and a territorial senator in the late 1930's, utilized this trail for nearly thirty years in his mail contract which ran from Eagle to Chicken and back.

The trail offers a feeling of the rugged country and harsh environment with which the early settlers had to deal in their quest for gold and furs. The Chicken-Franklin Trail is representative of overland transportation routes of the past throughout the Fortymile region and serves as a reminder of the contrast between the travel of today and that of a bygone era. Today it provides the only accessible overland route to the abandoned community of Franklin, the origin of the Forty-mile mining heritage.

Background

The first gold strike in the interior of Alaska was at the site of Franklin in 1886. The community was inhabited continuously from that point until 1948. At its peak in the late 1800's, the population approached two hundred persons.

In 1896, gold was discovered on Chicken Creek and a small community was established there. By 1906, the population of Chicken was about four hundred persons. Travel between Chicken and Franklin was extensive at this time but dwindled over the years as the populations of both communities declined.

Freight traffic over the trail was steady over the years. A pack train, run by John Powers, arrived every ten days with mail and supplies from Eagle. The pack trains were discontinued in 1939 when the newly completed airstrip at Chicken began receiving the mail and supplies. Since that time the trail has seen much less use, utilized now by a few hunters, trappers and prospectors.

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area,
Tok, Alaska 99780
Haynes, Terry, They Didn't Come in Four Wheel Drives, 1976. Boulder,
Colorado WICHE.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 30.3 / 25 foot trail corridor
UTM REFERENCES

A 0,2 4,6,2,4,5,0 7,1,1,5,3,5,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 0,2 4,5,4,3,5,0 7,1,0,5,3,2,0

B 0,2 4,6,2,2,0,0 7,1,1,4,3,0,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 0,2 4,5,6,8,5,0 7,1,1,2,8,0,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Legal description of the Chicken-Franklin Trail

The following list identifies those protracted townships, ranges and sections which the trail transverses.

Copper River Meridian

T28N, R18E, Sec. 36

T27N, R18E, Sec. 1, 2, 11, 10, 9, 16, 21, 20, 29, 32

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES _____

NO _____

NONE _____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is _____ National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Chicken-Franklin Trail

AND/OR COMMON
Power's Mail Trail

2 LOCATION Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN
Chicken,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE
Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

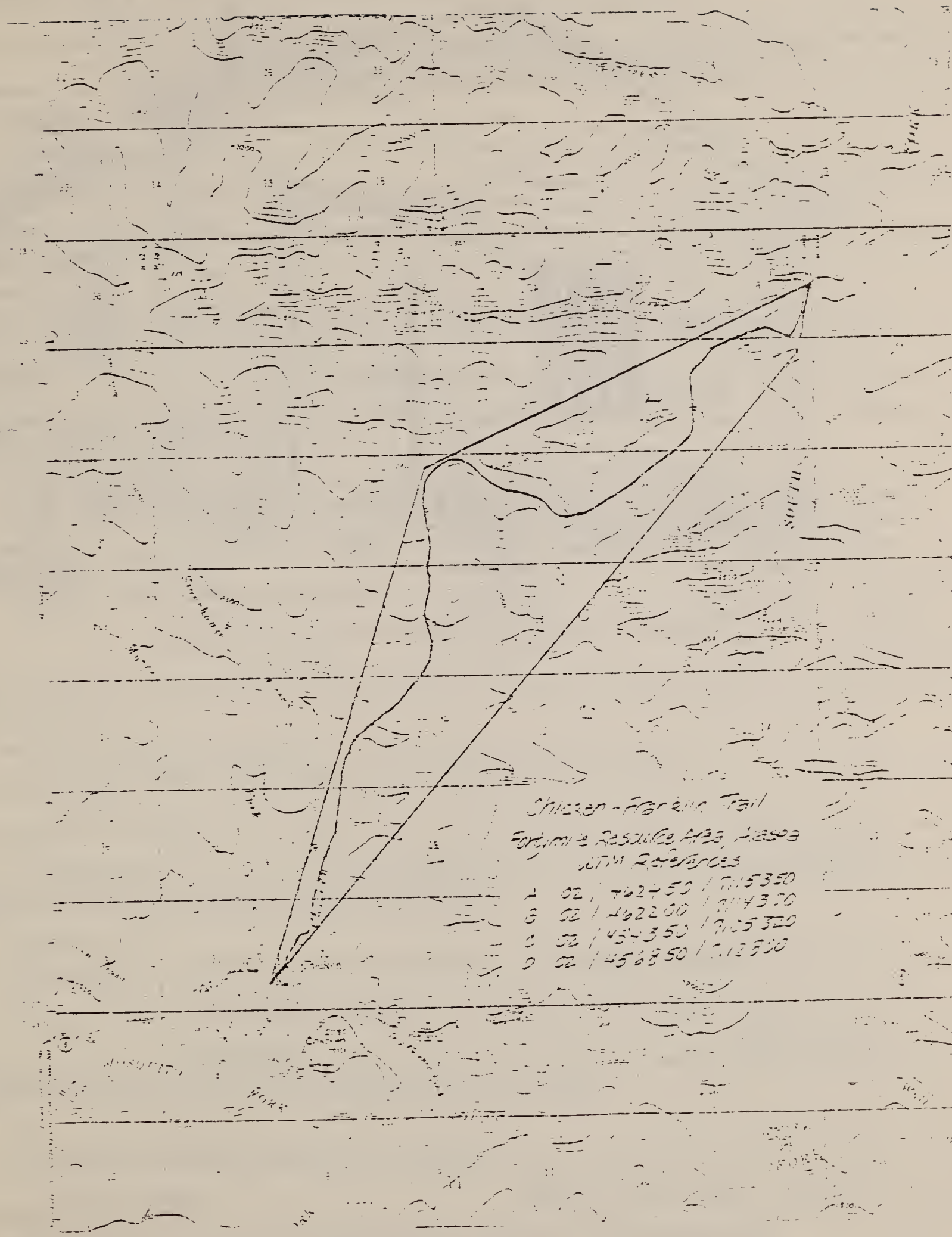
DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

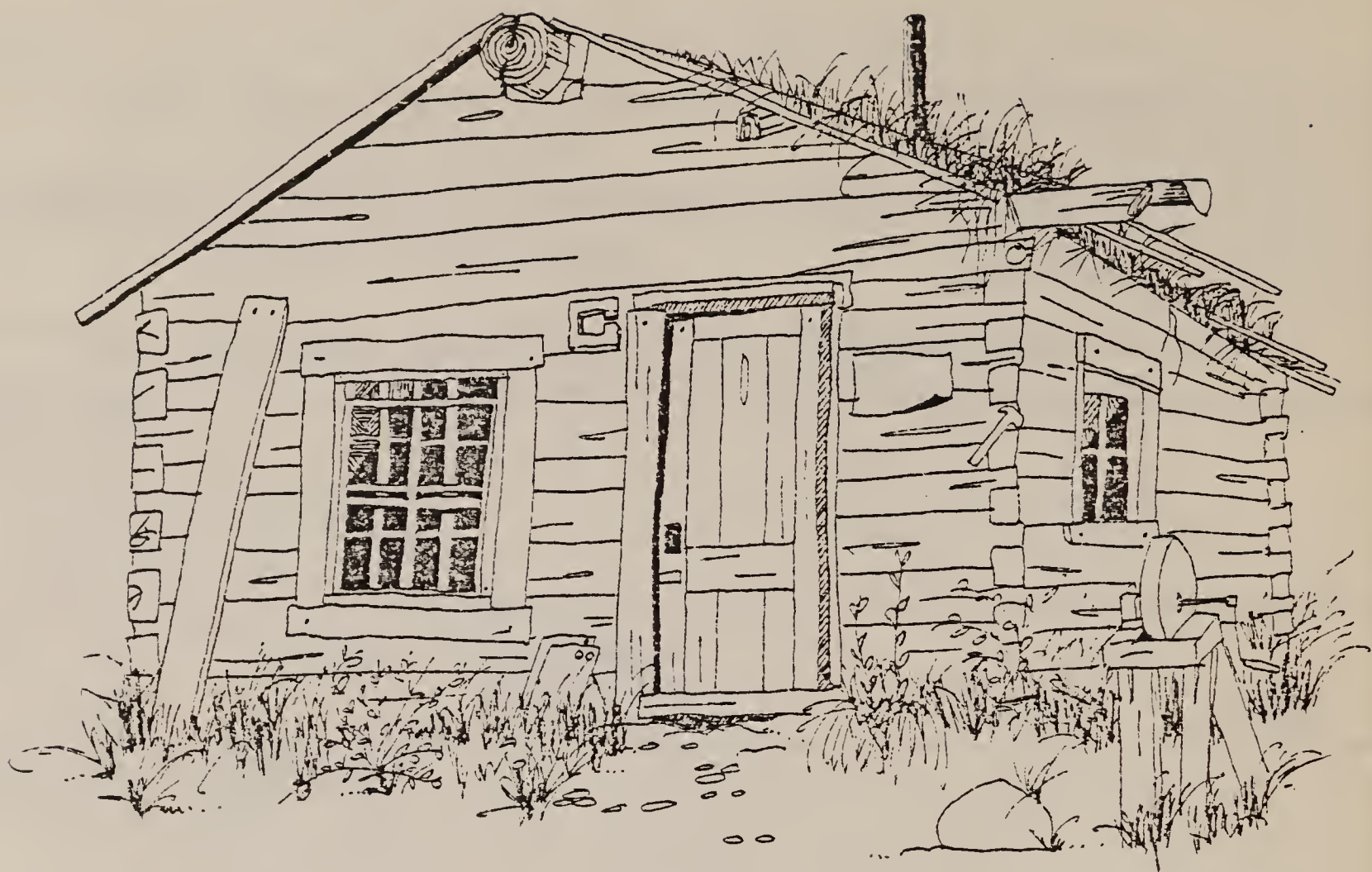
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 3



Chisken-Franklin Trail
Fortymile Resource Area, Alaska
UTM References

A	02	462450	7115350
B	02	462200	7114370
C	02	454350	7105320
D	02	456850	7113500



FRANKLIN SCHOOLHOUSE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Franklin

AND/OR COMMON

Franklin Gulch, Dogtown

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

South Fork Fortymile River, Fortymile Resource Area

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Chicken,

X VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska

02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE Mining claims	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES, RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES, UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fairbanks,

VICINITY OF

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fairbanks,

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Antiquities Site Inventory #EAG-013

DATE

Oct. 21, 1974

X FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Tok,

Alaska 99780

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
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<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Franklin Historic District is situated on the South Fork of the Fortymile River, eight air miles north/northeast of Chicken, Alaska. It is approximately ten and one half miles downstream from the Taylor Highway bridge at milepost 75 on the South Fork.

Steep valley walls and river bottom prevail in the area. Franklin Creek runs east out of the V-shaped valley in the western half of the district where the valley floor is limited in places to a width of fifty feet. Tailings and rusted machine parts from past gold mining operations are found throughout the valley bottom which is overgrown with willow and alder. A narrow winding trail follows the creek from the mouth of the valley and runs for several miles to the west.

In its peak years, Franklin Gulch was cluttered with many buildings along Franklin Creek and the Fortymile River. Today, there are only a few structures in the area. At the far western edge of the district, approximately one mile up Franklin Creek from the Fortymile, there is a cabin and two caches. The cabin is in ruins. It measures 14' x 13' with a roof extending five feet over a porch. The roof of poles, covered with tarpaper and sod, has collapsed. The 14' 10" x 2' 6" door frame faces east. There are windows on the north and west sides measuring 2' 8" x 2' 8". Of special interest at this cabin is the uniquely decorated door. Appliques cut from tin tobacco cans have been pressed into the wood in a star shape design. Scores of other unusual artifacts litter the area.

One hundred feet north of the mouth of Franklin Creek one finds the remainder of the Franklin Community. Eight structures remain, all sitting against the hillside. The largest structure is the Franklin roadhouse, a 39' x 29' spruce log structure. The pole and sod roof has collapsed into the interior. It is constructed in the notch and saddle fashion and has moss chinking. There are three windows on the southwest wall 2' 10" x 4' 5", six over six light. A 2' 2" x 2' 7" window is on the northeast wall and two 1' 10" x 2' 4" ones on the northeast wall. A door on the northeast wall is 6' 2" x 2' 5" and another door on the northeast wall, 5' 3" x 2' 6". There is corrugated tin on the interior walls and the floor is of 1 x 6 planking. The roadhouse has been victim to vandalism -- a section of logs having been cut from the southeast wall for firewood. A 12' x 17' log section has been added to the east side of the roadhouse. The roadhouse sits on a raised section of ground held by a log and stone retaining wall. A cache, toolshed, and a small log barn lie just west of the roadhouse and the frame of a green-house just a few yards to the south.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 7

PAGE 1 of 1

The other major structure at the community site is the schoolhouse which is east of the roadhouse and approximately forty yards from the South Fork. This is a one room cabin built of spruce logs. It measures 20' x 13 1/2' and is constructed in the square notch fashion. The chinking is mud and moss covered by poles. The roof is of three inch half-hewn logs covered with sod. There is one cross beam. The door, 2' 6" x 6', faces east. Six above six light windows measuring 3' x 3' 7" are on the north and south walls (two each) and one on the east wall. Another door 2' 6" x 6' on the north wall leads to a room eight feet deep which is now collapsed. Planking on the floor is 1 x 6. The south wall of the cabin is sagging and the bottom logs, as well as the sections of the floor, are deteriorating. A small shed and an outhouse lie a few yards northeast of the schoolhouse.

These structures are used sporadically throughout the year by recreational miners and trappers in the area and are frequented by nearly all parties floating the South Fork of the Fortymile.

Across the river from the community site lies the ruins of a blacksmith shop. The features of the building are not distinguishable. Three boilers, a bellows, a water pump, a steam engine governor, and a self dump bucket can be found in this drift mining area. A cable stretches across the Fortymile from this site to a point near the schoolhouse. On the eastern edge of the district lies Troublesome Point, a site of early mining activity in the area. A grave yard is all that remains on the point. Remains of a flume can be found intermittently along the hillside between Troublesome Point and the community site.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) Mining
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Franklin is the site of the first major gold strike in interior Alaska. The discovery occurred in 1886 and is among the most significant links in the mining and social history of the Fortymile area. The discovery of gold at Franklin Gulch was the prelude to a long and colorful era of mining stretching from Dawson to Nome. When the gold rush passed, Franklin continued to serve as a major meeting place for miners and trappers in the Fortymile. It was a major stop in the chief overland trail between Chicken and Eagle and was an integral part of the transportation system up and down the river. Franklin has had paramount influence in the exploration and settlement of interior Alaska and serves as a reminder of the rich heritage of the Fortymile region.

Background

In 1886, Howard Franklin discovered gold on the Fortymile River and the creek at the site was named after him. During the first year, miners took out an estimated \$4,000.00 worth of gold. Miners flocked to the Fortymile country. Since Franklin Gulch was short, narrow, and shallow, miners held a meeting and decided that the standard claims should be shortened. This permitted more of the early arrivals to mine there. In 1893 the creeks of the Fortymile produced some \$98,000.00 worth of gold. By 1896, Franklin and other mining sites in the Fortymile had lost much of their population due to gold strikes down the Yukon. This trend accelerated as the news of new richer placer deposits on the Klondike became known.

The mining activities around Franklin demonstrate nearly all of the early day mining techniques in one small area. The Mulvane bucketline dredge operated on the South Fork of the Fortymile. Starting below Franklin, in 1909, it worked upstream until it passed Franklin Creek; the pay streak running out in 1914. Placer, drift, and sluice operations were pursued in Franklin Gulch. In 1899, Frank Buteau and his partner built a flume almost one mile in length that carried water from Franklin Creek to Troublesome Point. There they set up a "hydraulicking" operation. This is thought to be the first hydraulic method of mining in the Yukon Valley. Troublesome Point received its name as a result of the trouble its wealth caused the original partners of the claim.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8

PAGE 1 of 1

Remains of the flume are still visible on the hillside. In the years 1904 to 1906, 494.29, 581.47, and 783.79 ounces of gold, respectively, were taken from Franklin Gulch. More recently, bulldozers and draglines worked Franklin Gulch. In 1953, the Franklin Mining Company produced the largest amount of gold in the Fortymile region. Today, suction dredges are used by recreational miners during periods of plentiful water in Franklin Creek where pockets of gold still lie.

The community of Franklin was inhabited continuously from 1887 until 1948. It maintained a post office from 1902 until 1945 and supported a school from 1927 to 1933. The mouth of Franklin Creek was once referred to as Dogtown because of the many dogs there used to pull sleds in the winter months. At its peak in the late 1800's, the population of Franklin approached two hundred persons.

In 1905, Prindle said, "The gold was easy to mine and more easily spent on the little flat at the mouth of the creek, which was crowded with miners and passed quickly through many hands". Money was not commonly used to pay for goods and services in early day Franklin. Meals at the roadhouse cost \$1.00 and were paid for in gold dust which was carefully weighed out on the gold scales. The roadhouse is actually the third structure on the same site -- the original was destroyed by a fire in 1919 and the second, lost to a flood in 1925. For many years the roadhouse was the focal point of social life in the area with Sunday dinner, dances, and mail day attracting nearby residents to Franklin. The roadhouse served as the post office for the mail which was brought from Eagle every ten days by John Power.

The schoolhouse was built in 1927. After 1933 it was used as a living quarters and is still occasionally occupied by trappers and recreationists. The cabin one mile up Franklin Creek was built between 1900 and 1910.

Although the Franklin area has several active mining claims, it remains abandoned throughout most of the year, visited and occupied randomly through the summer season by recreationists.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 240

UTM REFERENCES

A 0 2 4 6 3 0 5 0 7 1 1 5 6 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C 0 2 4 6 0 7 0 0 7 1 1 4 8 5 0

B 0 2 4 6 3 1 0 0 7 1 1 5 2 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D 0 2 4 6 0 7 5 0 7 1 1 5 2 5 0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Nominated area is a rectangle 1 1/2 miles long by 1/4 mile wide. Beginning at point B on the peninsula 2000 feet downstream from the mouth of Franklin Creek on the South Fork of the Fortymile River, thence westerly at a bearing of 260° for a distance of 7920 feet, thence northerly 1320 feet at a bearing of 350°, thence easterly 7920 feet at a bearing of 80°, thence southerly 1320 feet at a bearing of 10° to the point of origin.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
<u>N/A</u>			

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1 of 1

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Heller, Herbert, Sourdough Sagas, 1967. Sausalito, California Comstock Editions.

Mertie, J.B., Fieldbook: Fortymile, Eagle and Circle Districts, 1936, 1928. U.S.G.S.

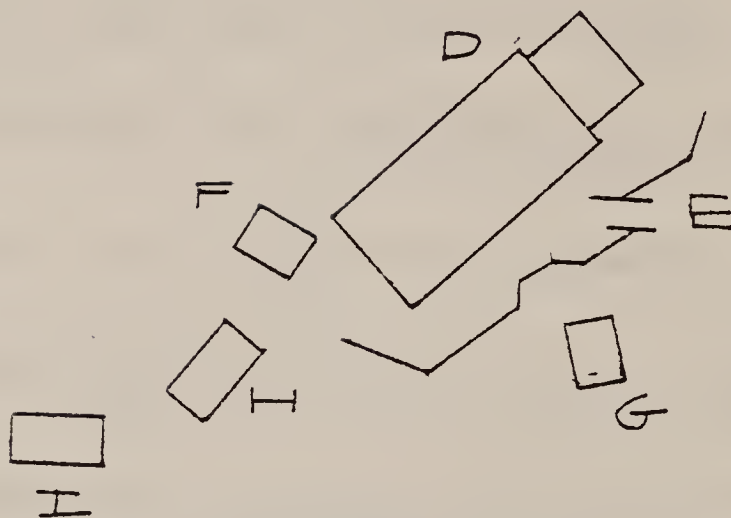
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Prindle, L.M., The Gold Placers, 1905. U.S.G.S. Bulletin #251.

FORTY MILE RIVER

FRANKLIN
COMMUNITY



KEY

- | | |
|---|-------------|
| A | SCHOOLHOUSE |
| B | SHED |
| C | OUTHOUSE |
| D | ROADHOUSE |
| E | COOLER |
| F | CACHE |
| G | GREENHOUSE |
| H | BARN |
| I | TOOLSHED |

1 inch = 40 feet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

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RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Franklin

AND/OR COMMON

Franklin Gulch, Dogtown

2 LOCATION

Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

~~---~~ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Eagle,

Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

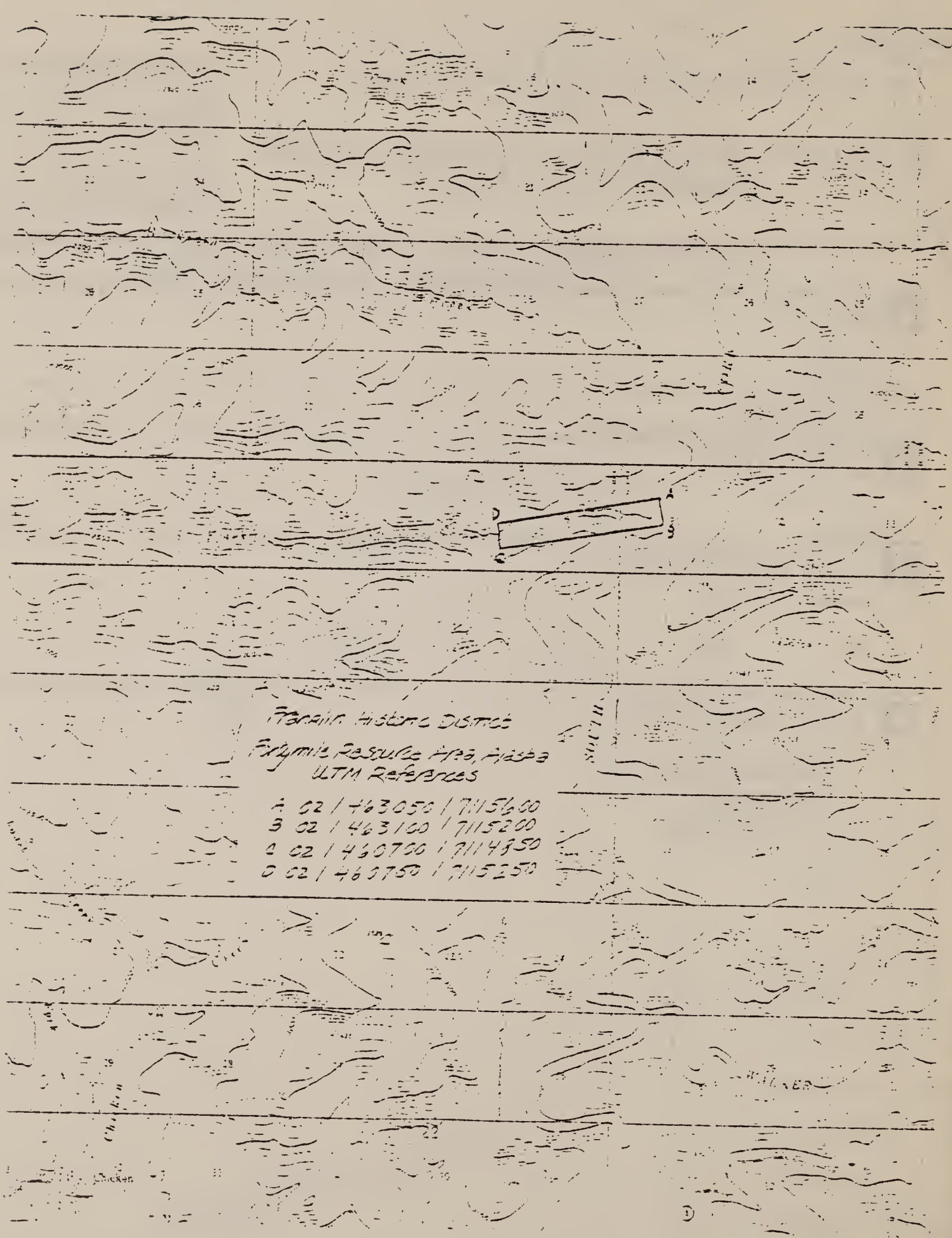
DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

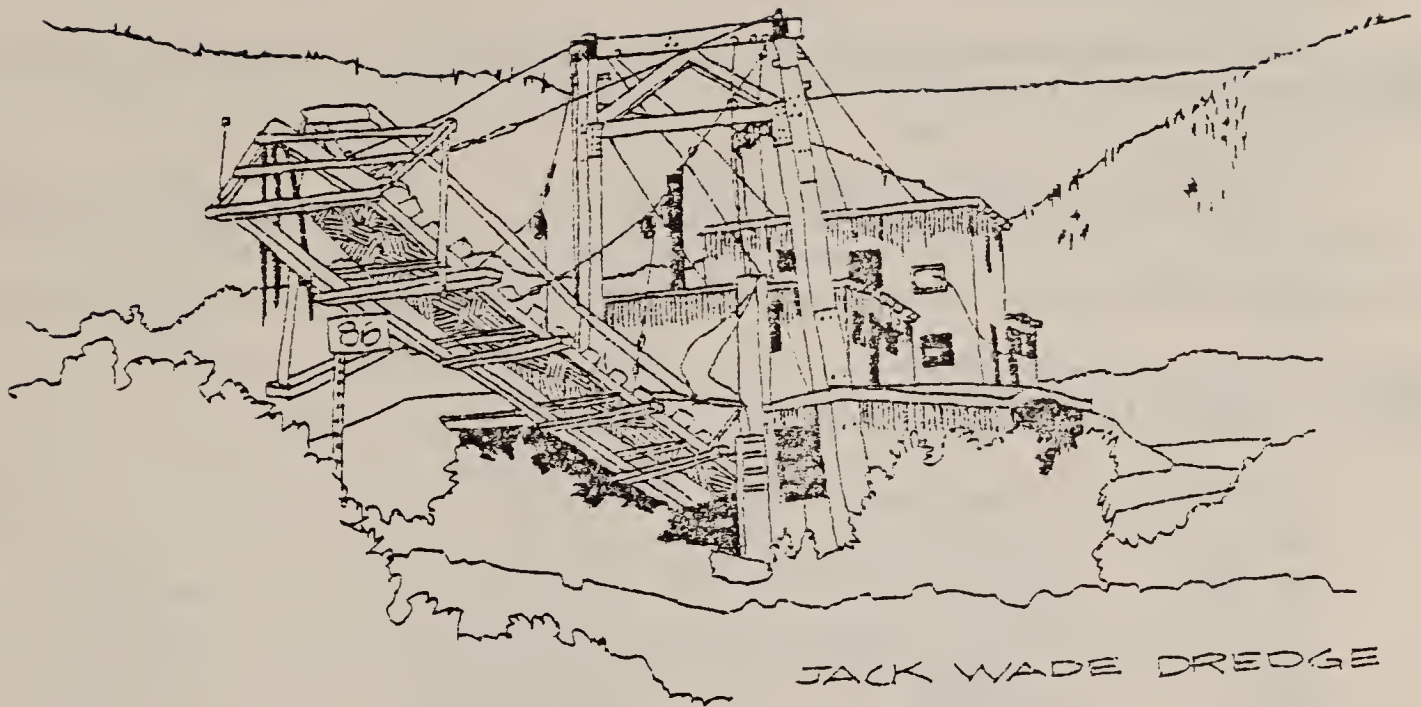
1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 3484-73



Tonalá Historic District
Pyramide Resource Area, Phase 3
UTM References

- A 02 / 463050 / 7115100
- B 02 / 463100 / 7115200
- C 02 / 463050 / 7114850
- D 02 / 4630750 / 7115250



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Jack Wade Dredge

AND/OR COMMON

Mulvane Dredge

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Milepost 86 on the Taylor Highway

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY/TOWN

Jack Wade

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE Mining claim	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	X <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandon

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1150

CITY/TOWN

Fairbanks,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY/TOWN

Fairbanks,

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Antiquities Site Inventory #EAG-050

DATE

Oct. 23, 1974

X ☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY/TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>1906, 1935</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The abandoned Jack Wade Dredge lies next to the Taylor Highway at milepost 86. Surrounded by tailings, half of the dredge sits in the waters of Wade Creek with its left side partially covered by overburden, sloping off from the edge of the highway. This overburden has caved in a portion of the left side. Alder and willow grow from its foredeck. Structurally sound above deck, the dredge is but a skeleton of its original appearance. The windows and doors are missing and the bucketline is scattered in the tailings. But many of the dredge's interior components are still intact.

The Jack Wade Dredge was a stacker type dredge with two flumes. The dredge had thirty two buckets of four and one half cubic foot capacity. It had a 150 horsepower boiler which powered four steam engines. One engine, rated at 65 horsepower was used to drive the pumps. One of these turbine pumps, used for washing the gold bearing gravel, had an intake of fourteen inches and a discharge of twelve inches which was rated at two thousand gallons of sluice water per minute. Another 65 horse-power engine drove the bucketline. Both 65 horse engines were two cylinder types with both high and low compression. A 40 horse-power steam engine drove the stacker and screen. A six horse-power engine was used to run a 4 kilowatt DC generator. The trommel screen is twenty-two feet long with four sections of which the upper two have one half inch holes and the lower two, three inch holes. The Jack Wade Dredge had a sort of grizzly or heavy sifting screen upon which droppings from the buckets fell before dropping into the trommel. This fed into a separate set of riffles called a save-all. Two flumes led from the end of the trommel. A perforated pipe, about eight inches in diameter, goes along the top and inside the trommel. Water came through this, washing the gravel.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITA	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION-SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	Mining
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Jack Wade Dredge holds much special interest in the Fortymile mining district. One of the first bucketline dredges in the Fortymile, it worked more years than any other dredge. The remains of the Jack Wade Dredge serve as a reminder of the gold mining activities of the past on what is considered by many as the richest creek in the Fortymile district.

Background

Freighted up the Fortymile River from Dawson, the dredge first began working on the Walker Fork in the spring of 1907 at Twelvemile Creek. It was installed by a wealthy Englishman by the name of Russell King. In 1909 it was moved down the South Fork of the Fortymile River to an area below Franklin at Uhler Creek where it was known as the Mulvane Dredge after the operator Bob Mulvane. It made a good profit, working upstream for four years below Franklin. But once it passed the mouth of Franklin Creek the pay streak ran out. It was shut down in 1914 when it became unprofitable to keep the dredge running.

The Mulvane Dredge sat idle until the spring of 1935 when the North American Mining Company out of Boston bought the dredge. A man named Ed Holbrook used sleds and small gas driven tractors, which he brought in from Dawson and the Sixtymile country, to move the dredge from the South Fork to its present vicinity on Wade Creek. The hull was replaced with new timbers and a new bucketline was put on. The buckets were transported by rail from Cordova to Chitina on the Copper River and Northwestern Railroad. They were taken by truck from Chitina to Chistochina where they were flown to Lassen Field (currently Walker Fork Campground) near the confluence of Wade Creek and Walker Fork. A Travelair plane was used but could only carry one bucket at a time since each bucket weighed over seven hundred pounds.

North American Mining Company operated the dredge until December, 1940 when they sold it to the Wade Creek Dredging Company for \$60,000.00. In 1941 the steam engines were replaced by diesel. Scrap metal parts at the site of conversion can still be seen from the Taylor Highway. Later that year the digging ladder broke and was replaced, but soon broke again.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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The Jack Wade Dredge was then shut down. The Yukon Placer Company took many of the working parts out of the dredge and used them in other mining areas. Sometime after the dredge had shut down, a bulldozer mining in the area near the dredge shoved overburden against the side of the dredge, there being no other place to put it.

The dredge required only three men to operate: winchman, oiler and fireman. However, many more men were kept busy cutting wood. Ten to twelve cords of wood per day were needed to keep the boiler operating. The season usually lasted from June through October. Close to fifteen hundred cords of wood were used each season. The Jack Wade Dredge operated twenty four hours per day. It would run for ten days and then the sluice boxes would be cleaned-up and the gold removed. The best clean-up by the dredge was about \$30,000.00 when operated by North American Mining Company. Wade Creek Dredging Company, in the years of 1940 and 1941, took out about \$120,000.00 total.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area,
Tok, Alaska
Mertie, J.B., Fieldbook: Fortymile, Eagle and Circle Districts, 1936.
Washington, D.C., U.S.G.S.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 0,2 47,311,5,0 17,1107,5,0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99760

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Jack Wade Dredge

AND/OR COMMON

Mulvane Dredge

2 LOCATION

Milepost 86 on the Taylor Highway, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Jack Wade,

Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

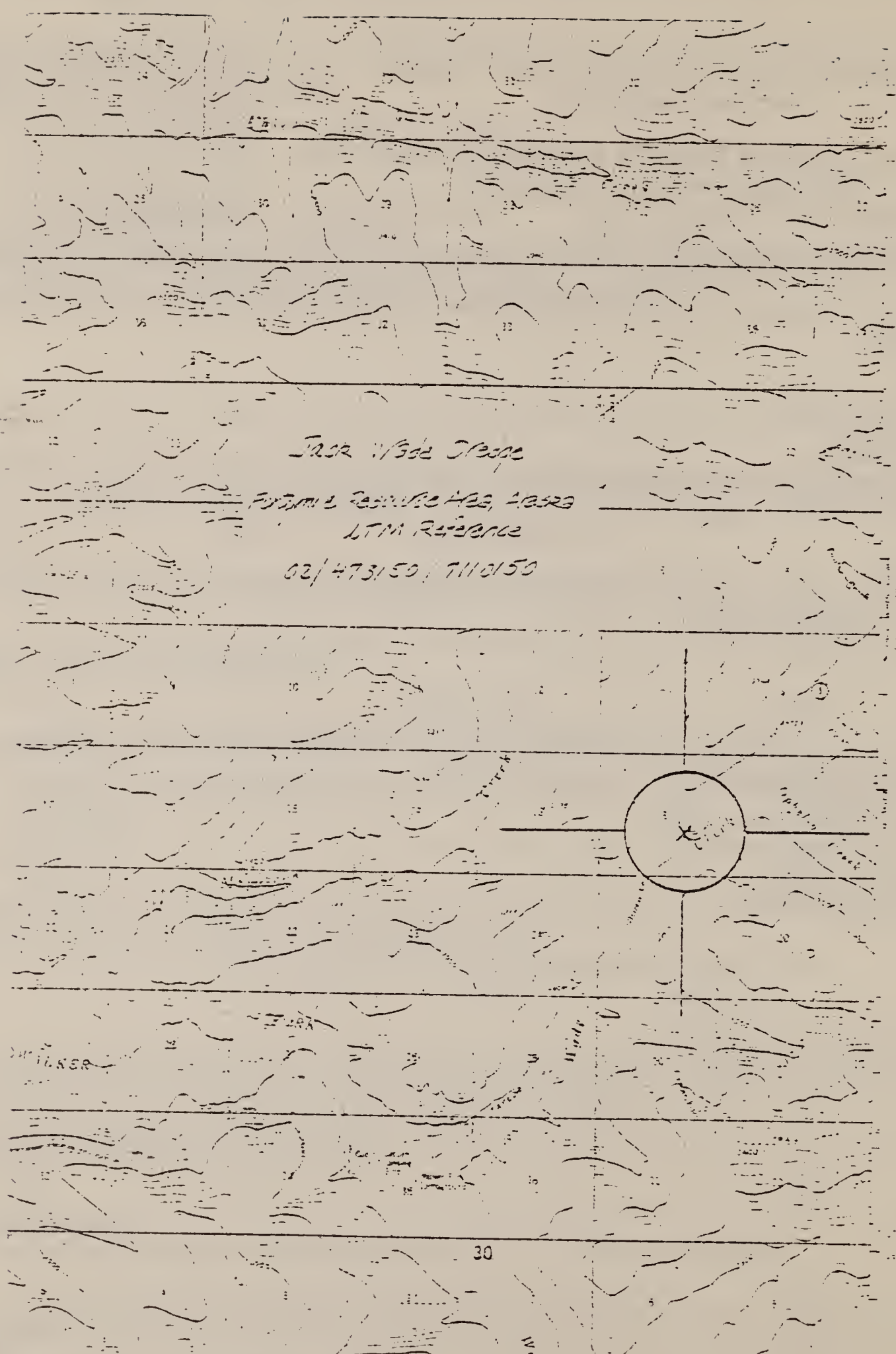
DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 34 64-75



Jack Wade Cressie

Former Resource Map, Alaska

LTM Reference

02/473150 / 7110150

WILKER



MITCHELL'S RANCH

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Mitchell's Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Mosquito Flats, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

Tok

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

☐ NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE	
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC Native	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE allotment	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH pending	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER Abandoned

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

☐ VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☐ GOOD
☒ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Mitchell's Ranch is located on the northeast edge of Mosquito Flats, a large marshy area approximately twenty-five miles north of Tanacross, Alaska. Surrounded predominately by muskeg, Mitchell's Ranch is situated on a more elevated portion of the flats near the Mosquito Fork of the Fortymile River. Seasonally wet sloughs border the site which is more meadow-like than the surrounding marshlands. The country around the site is heavily populated with moose, waterfowl, and their various predators.

Numerous artifacts are found in the vicinity of the cabin including a hay rake (circa 1920), a foot powered grindstone with frame, a freight sled, a horse plow, a small watertube steamboiler, and a hay-baler which seems to be steam powered.

The cabin itself is built out of spruce logs ranging from eight inches to twelve inches in diameter in the notch and saddle fashion. The cabin measures 13'9"x27'4" with a porch extending six feet on the west side. The walls have seven rounds of logs and the ridgepole is nine feet high. A single door faces west and measures 5'2"x2'4". Two windows, 3'x3', are on the south and east walls. The roof is plank and covered with sod. Spruce trees up to eight feet high grow from the roof. The floor is out of 1x8 planking.

The cabin at Mitchell's Ranch remains in good condition and retains the feeling of a bygone era. Its remoteness from any developed transportation route generally makes it available to visitation only during the winter season, when frozen ground facilitates passage. The cabin contains articles belonging to trappers who utilize the cabin during the winter season.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Dick Mitchell

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Mitchell's Ranch is an example of one of the early successful attempts at agriculture in the interior of Alaska. The ability to produce hay in a harsh environment and climatic extremes and supply it to a local market in significant commercial quantities, is a unique accomplishment. It wasn't until many years later, with modern equipment, that an agricultural undertaking, such as that at Mitchell's Ranch, was attempted in Alaska's interior. The cabin is the only permanent structure on Mosquito Flats, an isolated, semimuskeg area where years of inhabitation alone require a recognition of endurance and perseverance. Mitchell's Ranch was an important link in the trail from Chicken to Tanana Crossing and products from the site served commerce and transportation throughout the lower Fortymile district.

Background

Originally a rancher in what is now Montana, Dick Mitchell arrived in the Fortymile district in the early 1900's. He built a small ranch at a site on Mosquito Flats where he found tremendous quantities of native grass. For many years he provided John Powers, a freighter who held the mail contract through the Fortymile, with hay for his horses in Chicken. Although his hay was less nutritional than that brought in by riverboat from outside Alaska, it was substantially less expensive (only \$50.00 per ton, compared to \$140.00 per ton). It is thought that Mitchell may have also supplied the army mules at Fort Egbert with hay. Mitchell held a mail contract, carrying the mail between Chicken and Tanana Crossing with a string of pack horses that he owned. The site of his ranch, located on the mail route, proved to be handy. Mitchell abandoned the site and moved to Chicken around 1930 when his advancing age prevented him from continuing his ranching business.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

BLM Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area, Tok, Alaska 99780
Haynes, Terry, They Didn't Come in Four Wheel Drives, 1976. Boulder, Col.
WICHE.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 10 2 40 8 9 5 0 7 0 8 6 40 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

D
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

N/A

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Mitchell's Ranch

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION Mosquito Flats, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN
Tok,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE
Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

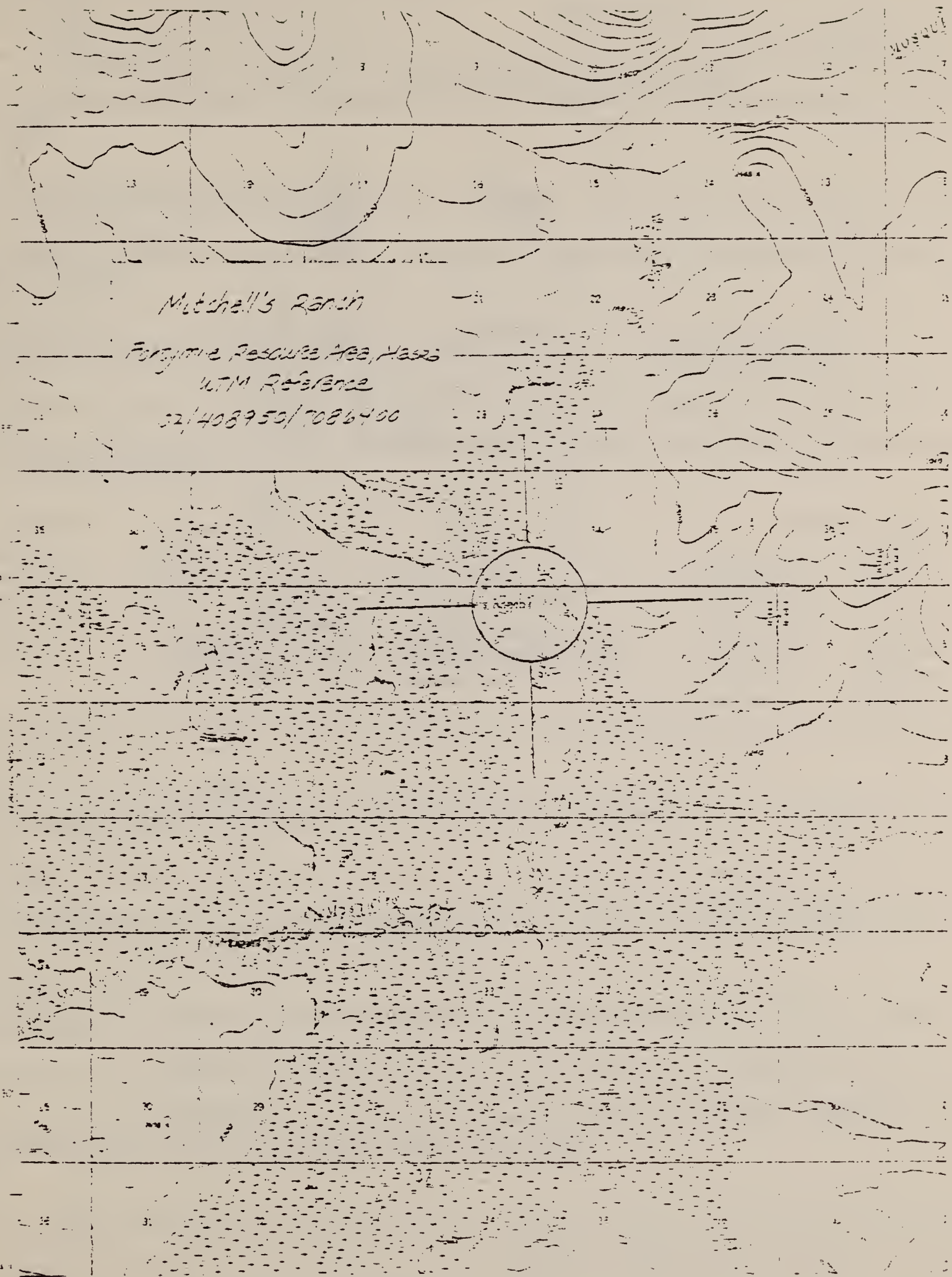
DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2. NORTH ARROW
- 3. UTM REFERENCES

INT:



Mitchell's Ranch

Fortymile Resource Area, Alaska

UTM Reference

32/408953/7086400



JOHN ELDEN (MOOSE CREEK JOHN) AND DAUGHTER
MOOSE CREEK ROADHOUSE FORTY MILE RIVER
ALASKA 1906

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Moose Creek Customs Station

AND/OR COMMON

Moose Creek

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fortymile River, Fortymile Resource Area

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

X VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

___DISTRICT

X PUBLIC

___OCCUPIED

___AGRICULTURE

___MUSEUM

___BUILDING(S)

___PRIVATE

X UNOCCUPIED

___COMMERCIAL

___PARK

___STRUCTURE

___BOTH

___WORK IN PROGRESS

___EDUCATIONAL

___PRIVATE RESIDENCE

X SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

___ENTERTAINMENT

___RELIGIOUS

___OBJECT

___IN PROCESS

X YES, RESTRICTED

___GOVERNMENT

___SCIENTIFIC

___BEING CONSIDERED

___YES UNRESTRICTED

___INDUSTRIAL

___TRANSPORTATION

___NO

___MILITARY

___OTHER

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS (if applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

___FEDERAL ___STATE ___COUNTY ___LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT

☐ GOOD

☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED

☐ RUINS

☒ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED

☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE

☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the Moose Creek Customs Station and roadhouse sits on a bench on the south bank of the Fortymile River. Moose Creek runs north and enters the Fortymile River about one hundred feet west of the site. The mouth of the valley is broad and flat. No structures remain at the site. Shallow depressions are the only evidence of the buildings which once stood on the now overgrown grass meadow. Dense underbrush of willow and alder separate the meadow from the river. A complete small bulldozer, directed by a steering wheel, manufactured by Cleveland Tractor Company is probably the most interesting item at the site. There are also steam engine parts, a mowing machine, a steam shovel bucket, and household items about the area. There is no trace of recent human activity in the area.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Moose Creek was the site of the only customs station ever established on the Fortymile River. It was the gateway to the mining country up river and had a significant influence on the trade and travel of the residents in the Fortymile region.

Background

In the late 1800's and early 1900's a United States Custom Station and roadhouse operated at the mouth of Moose Creek on the Fortymile River. At one time the Fortymile River was the main transportation route into the Fortymile region. It was utilized by nearly all of the miners to freight their supplies to the gulches up river and to bring their gold out. Long freight boats were used in the summer while sleds were used during the times the river was frozen. Most supplies were brought in from Dawson and a tariff would invariably be charged to all of the outfits making the required stop. The station was busiest in the early days, after establishment, but slowed down considerably when most of the traffic into the Fortymile area began entering through Eagle.

The exact date of construction is unknown as is the date of the first customs operation. Mr. Fred Vanderwall was the officer in charge from 1903 to 1908, Mr. George Woodruff from 1910 to 1913 and Mr. John Abrams from 1913 to 1917. John Eldon, for whom a nearby airstrip is named, received an appointment as the Fortymile customs officer at Moose Creek in 1917 and held that position until 1922. It is assumed that the customs station became inoperative at this time. Eldon continued to live at the site which he ran as a roadhouse until the early 1940's. During this time it was the scene of occasional dances during the winter months and served the miners and trappers traveling through the lower Fortymile River region.

The roadhouse and surrounding cabins were sold by Eldon in 1950. The site was burned by an unknown party at an unknown date. Only memories remain.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Austin, Basil, The Diary of a Ninety-Eighter, 1968. Mt. Pleasant Mich. Cumming.
BLM Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area, Tok, Alaska 99780
Haynes, Terry, They Didn't Come in Four Wheel Drives, 1976. Boulder, Co. WICHE
Heller, Herbert, Sourdough Sagas, 1967. Sausalito, Ca. Comstock Editions.
Stuck, Hudson, Ten Thousand Miles with a Dogsled, 1932. N.Y., N.Y.
Charles Scribner's Sons.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 0 2 4 9 8 8 5 0 7 1 28 7 5 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

N/A

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-833-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES _____ NO _____ NONE _____

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is _____ National _____ State _____ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Moose Creek Customs Station

AND/OR COMMON

Moose Creek

2 LOCATION

Fortymile River, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

Eagle,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

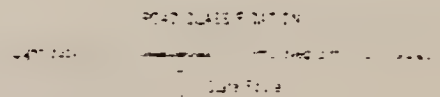
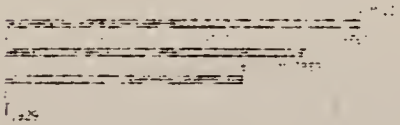
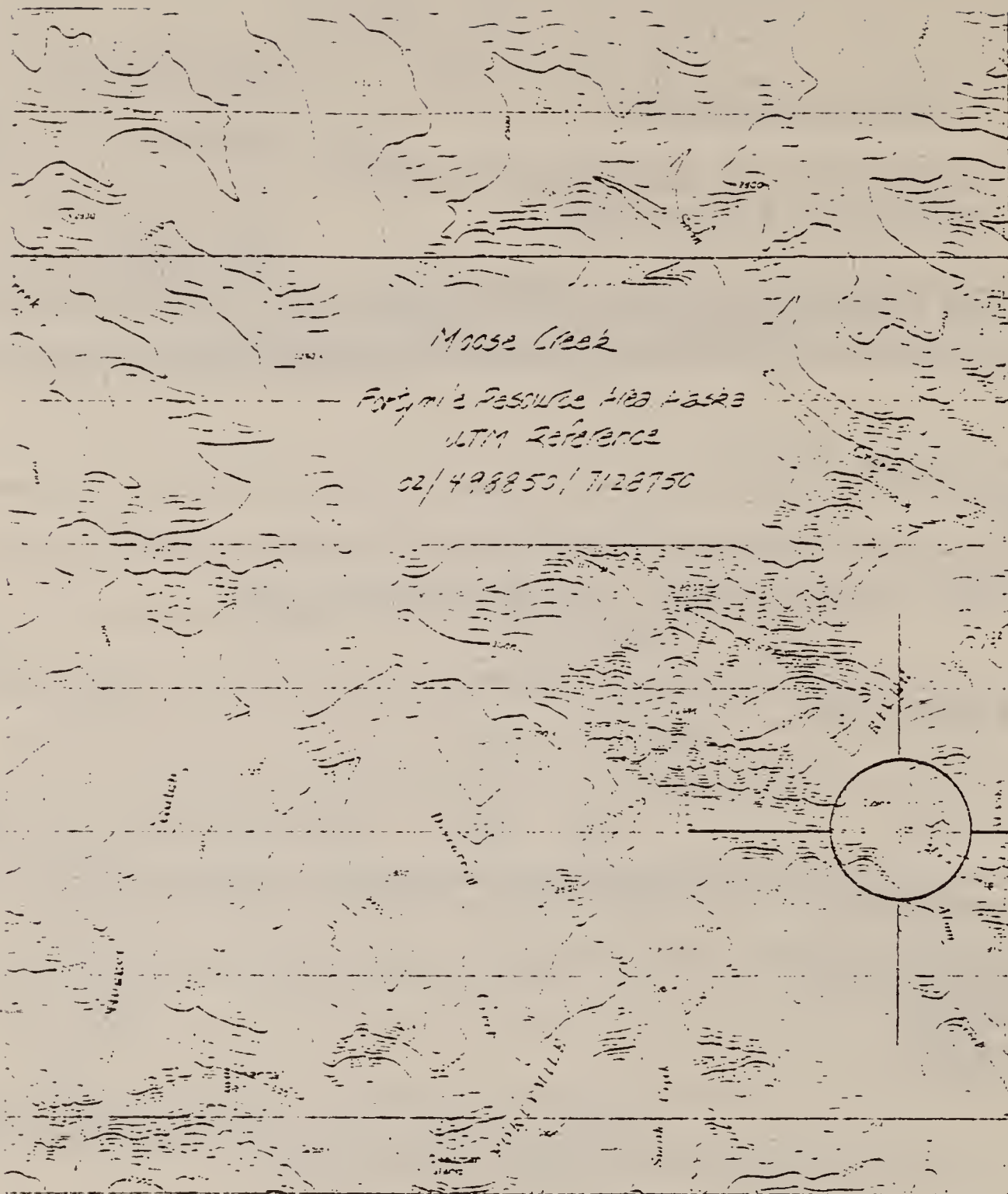
DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 34 64 - 75



SURVEY
FOR SECTION 10, T4N, R10E
AS SHOWN ON 1877, 1887

TABLE B - ALASKA

1989

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

New North Fork Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Relay Station

AND/OR COMMON

North Fork Station

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

North Fork of the Fortymile River, Fortymile R.A. — NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eagle

☒ VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska

02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

☐ DISTRICT☒ PUBLIC☐ OCCUPIED☐ AGRICULTURE☐ MUSEUM☐ BUILDING(S)☐ PRIVATE☒ UNOCCUPIED☐ COMMERCIAL☐ PARK☒ STRUCTURE☐ BOTH☐ WORK IN PROGRESS☐ EDUCATIONAL☐ PRIVATE RESIDENCE☐ SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

☐ ENTERTAINMENT☐ RELIGIOUS☐ OBJECT☐ IN PROCESS☐ YES, RESTRICTED☐ GOVERNMENT☐ SCIENTIFIC☐ BEING CONSIDERED☒ YES, UNRESTRICTED☐ INDUSTRIAL☐ TRANSPORTATION☐ NO☐ MILITARY☒ OTHER Abandoned**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fairbanks,

VICINITY OF

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

STATE

Fairbanks,

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

N/A

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The site of the North Fork Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Station is located on the west bank of the North Fork of the Fortymile River approximately two and one half miles upstream from the confluence of the Middle Fork. It sits on a flat bench one hundred feet from the river and is situated in a lowland spruce-hardwood area.

The station itself is in ruins with only three rounds of logs left standing. The spruce logs average ten inches in diameter and are fit together in the notch and saddle fashion. Bolts were used with an internal framework for support of the walls or roof. The dimentions of the ruins are 25'x35'. The remains of the roof prove it to have been pole and sod and covered with tin. Corrugated tin sheets 3'x12' are found about the site. The sod was used for insulation. The door faced southeast. Remains of window frames and shutters were found on recent surveys of the site. The exact size and placement of the windows is uncertain. Noted on one shutter was the date "June 1906".

Surrounding the site of the station ruins are other unidentified ruins, a standing cabin, built in the late 1920's, and numerous artifacts. Ruins measuring 18'x20' are located twenty feet north of the station. It is thought that this might be the site of the storeroom for the station. A fallen cache with ten foot legs sits between the station ruins and the standing cabin lying thirty feet to the south.

Objects of special interest to the WAMCATS station found at the site include: numerous telegraph insulators, telegraph wire, wooden insulator brackets, wooden boxes (addressed to North Fork through Fort Egbert via the White Pass route), a military bedframe, and a weathered desk. Other items ranging from mining tools to household goods can also be found about the area.

The original appearance of the North Fork Station is unknown.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The North Fork Station was an integral part of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System and is associated with events that have a significant contribution to the broad pattern of Alaskan history. Perhaps of greater and more lasting value to Alaska than all of the benefits derived from the discovery of gold, was the development of a communications system which brought the distant populated sections of the Territory together and linked them with the continental United States.

Background

The Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System was built during the years 1900 to 1904 by the United States Army, providing Alaska with the first direct communications link with the contiguous United States. Prior to completion, one year's time was needed to send a message to Washington D.C. and receive an answer. With the operation of WAMCATS this time was reduced to five days. This allowed for the prompt transmission of military orders, with the line also being used for selected commercial business.

The North Fork Station was built in 1905. The first relay station in the North Fork area was down the river from this site. But when the telegraph line was moved to a more easily maintainable route, the old station was abandoned and the new North Fork Station was built. This station was taken out of operation by the army when a wireless system replaced WAMCATS.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bell, Wendell and Sullivan, Michael, Cultural Resource Inventory of the Fortymile River, 1976. Boulder, Colorado WICHE.

Quirk, William A. III, Historical Aspects of the Building of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System, with Special Emphasis on the Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Lines 1902-1903, 1972. Washington, D.C. U.S. Department of the Interior.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 02 443200 7150750
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C

D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

New North Fork Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Relay Station

AND/OR COMMON

North Fork Station

2 LOCATION North Fork of the Fortymile River, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY TOWN

Eagle,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

DATE 1956

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

INT: 5424-71

EAGLE 8-31 QUADANGLE

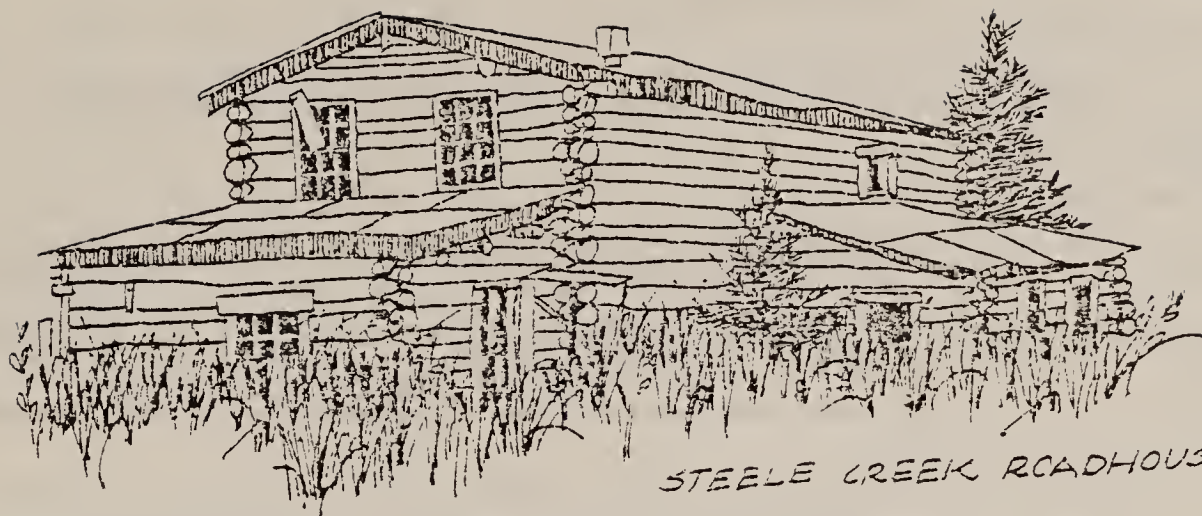
ALASKA

63360 SERIES TOPOG-4-4-41

E-3-4-2 3-1

1:50,000





STEELE CREEK ROADHOUSE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

Steele Creek Roadhouse

AND/OR COMMON

Steele Creek Postoffice, Steel Creek Trading Post

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

At the mouth of Steele Creek on the Fortymile River —NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Eagle

☒ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Alaska

STATE

Alaska

CODE

02

COUNTY

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE Mining claim
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☐ OCCUPIED
☒ UNOCCUPIED
☐ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES, RESTRICTED
☐ YES, UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE
☐ COMMERICAL
☐ EDUCATIONAL
☐ ENTERTAINMENT
☐ GOVERNMENT
☐ INDUSTRIAL
☐ MILITARY
☐ MUSEUM
☐ PARK
☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ OTHER**4 AGENCY**

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P. O. Box 1150

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Antiquities Site Inventory #EAG-019

DATE

11-21-74

☒ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

Tok

STATE

Alaska 99780

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The two story log structure is located at the mouth of Steele Creek on the south bank of the Fortymile River. It sits on a clay bank one hundred and twenty five feet from the river and is subject to occasional flooding during extremely high water. The area immediately surrounding the roadhouse is an open bench with vegetation consisting mainly of grass and forbs with few shrubs. Three other log cabins are situated on the same flat near the roadhouse but they are further from the river. The hills rise steeply from a level of 1200 feet at the river to 3000 feet at the ridge five miles to the southwest where the Taylor Highway lies. Access to Steele Creek is restricted. It can be reached by river and a trail leads from mile 105 of the Taylor Highway to the roadhouse. Due to the trail's poor condition, one must walk.

The roadhouse measures fifty feet, east to west, and is twenty-five feet wide. Built by a man named Anderson, it was originally a one story structure completed in 1898. A second story was added at an unknown time -- approximately 1910. The roadhouse is constructed in a notch and saddle fashion using spruce logs of nine to twelve inches in diameter. A structural inner wall divided the building into two twenty five foot sections. On the ground floor, the eastern section is one large room with a stairway leading to the second story. The floor in this section has collapsed due to a recent flood and is in need of repair. A door opens from the east wall to a six foot wide porch running the width of the house. The western half is divided, east to west, by a wall with a 3' x 6' horizontal opening apparently serving as a buffet between the kitchen and the dining area. The second story contains the sleeping quarters with three rooms on the east half and one large dormitory type room on the west. The ceiling is open with log collar beams at a height of six foot supporting rafters. Two lean-to type, one story log additions are attached to the structure. These were constructed at an unknown time. One is located on the south side, measuring 20' x 12', while the other is a continuation of the first story on the west side which measures 15' x 25'. The roof is tin. The log chinking appears to be cement.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

A small but very important community in the Fortymile District, Steele Creek served as a major meeting place for miners and trappers. The roadhouse served as a post office from 1907 to 1951 providing outside communication for local residents. It was a major stop on the chief overland trail from Eagle to Chitina. John Powers utilized the facilities at Steele Creek on his mail route through the Fortymile area and maintained a barn at the Steele Creek site for his pack horses. The roadhouse was an overnight stop for many freighters and visitors traveling through the region. In addition to the attractions of mail and supplies, the Steele Creek roadhouse was the site of holiday festivities up and down the Fortymile River until WW II. The Steele Creek roadhouse was an integral part in the transportation route of the Fortymile region serving the commerce and insuring the well being of its inhabitants until the completion of the Taylor Highway in 1951. Without this important link, travel through the Fortymile would have proved to be much more difficult if not perilous at times. The roadhouse is unique in that it is the only two story log structure in the Fortymile district and is also the largest log building. It is one of the oldest buildings in the Fortymile Resource Area that remains standing.

Background

The roadhouse was built by Mr. Anderson in 1898. He ran it until 1908 when it was sold to John A. "Pappy" Kemp. Mr. Kemp and his wife operated the roadhouse for many years with Kemp serving as postmaster from 1908 to 1932. Harry Ross purchased the establishment in 1932 and operated it until 1938, also serving as postmaster. The roadhouse traded hands several times between 1938 and 1948 at which time Robert and Ruth Wilson took over, running the roadhouse until the mid 50's. They remained at Steele Creek until 1964 when the area was sold to Neil Thurneau who currently resides there, mining in the vicinity.

George Lenont served as postmaster from April 11, 1907 until John A. Kemp took over April 27, 1908. H.H. Ross took the job on February 8, 1932 and was replaced on May 23, 1938 by Orville W. Couden. It again changed hands to Ann S. Ayre on April 18, 1939, to Eugene Doherty on February 29, 1940, and to Laurence Lyman on September 1, 1949. Ruth E. Wilson was the roadhouse's last postmaster beginning July 1, 1949 until August 31, 1951 when the mail stop was transferred to Boundary, Alaska.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

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Haynes, Terry, They Didn't Come in Four Wheel Drives, Boulder, Colorado., WICHE, 1976.
Prindle, L.M., The Fortymile Quadrangle, U.S.G.S. Bulletin #375, 1909.
Smith, Michael, Alaska's Historic Roadhouses, Boulder, Colorado, WICHE, 1974.
Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area, Tok, Alaska.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1

UTM REFERENCES

A 02 48 6 2 3 0 7 1 2 7 1 0 0
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
C

B
ZONE EASTING NORTHING
D

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE

James Christopher Borewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

Sept. 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok,

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES

NO

NONE

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11583, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is National State Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

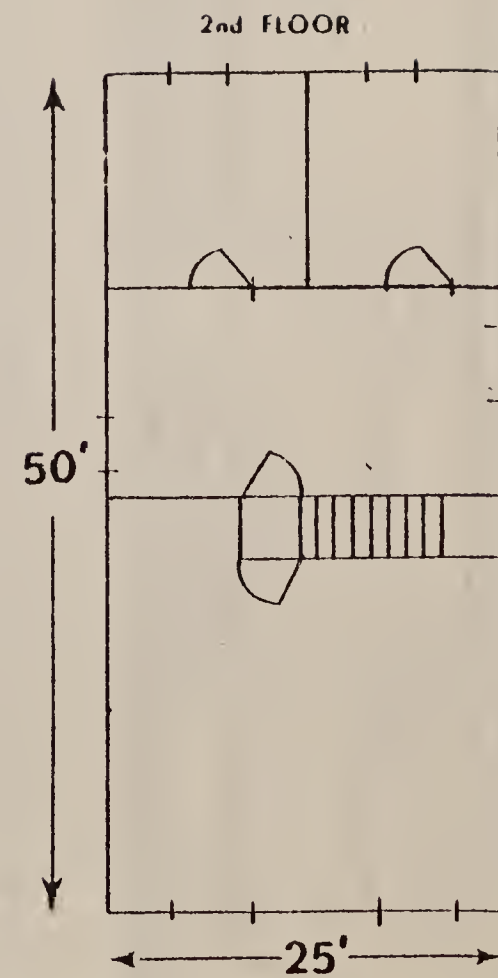
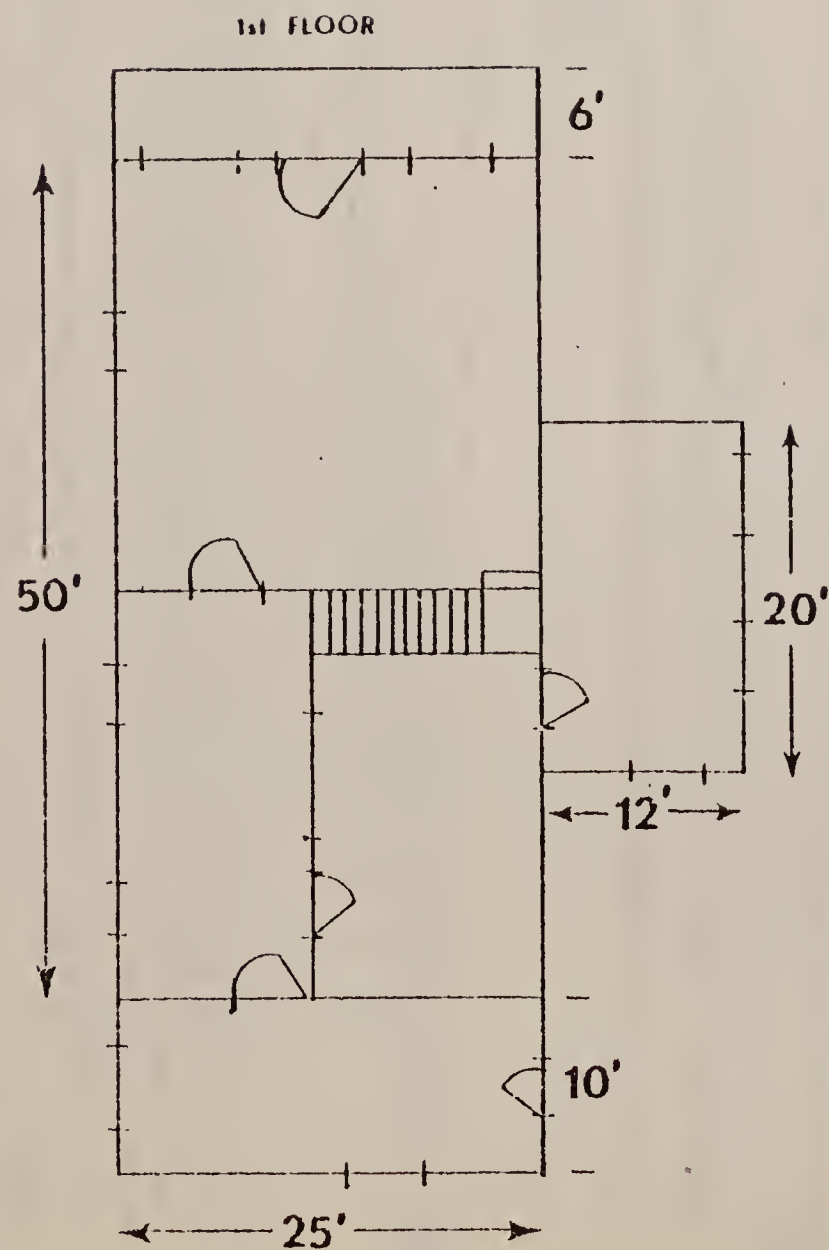
DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST.

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER



STEELE CREEK ROADHOUSE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED
DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC
Steele Creek Roadhouse

AND/OR COMMON
Steele Creek Post Office, Steel Creek Trading Post

2 LOCATION Fortymile River, Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN
Eagle,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE
Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 63360

DATE 1956

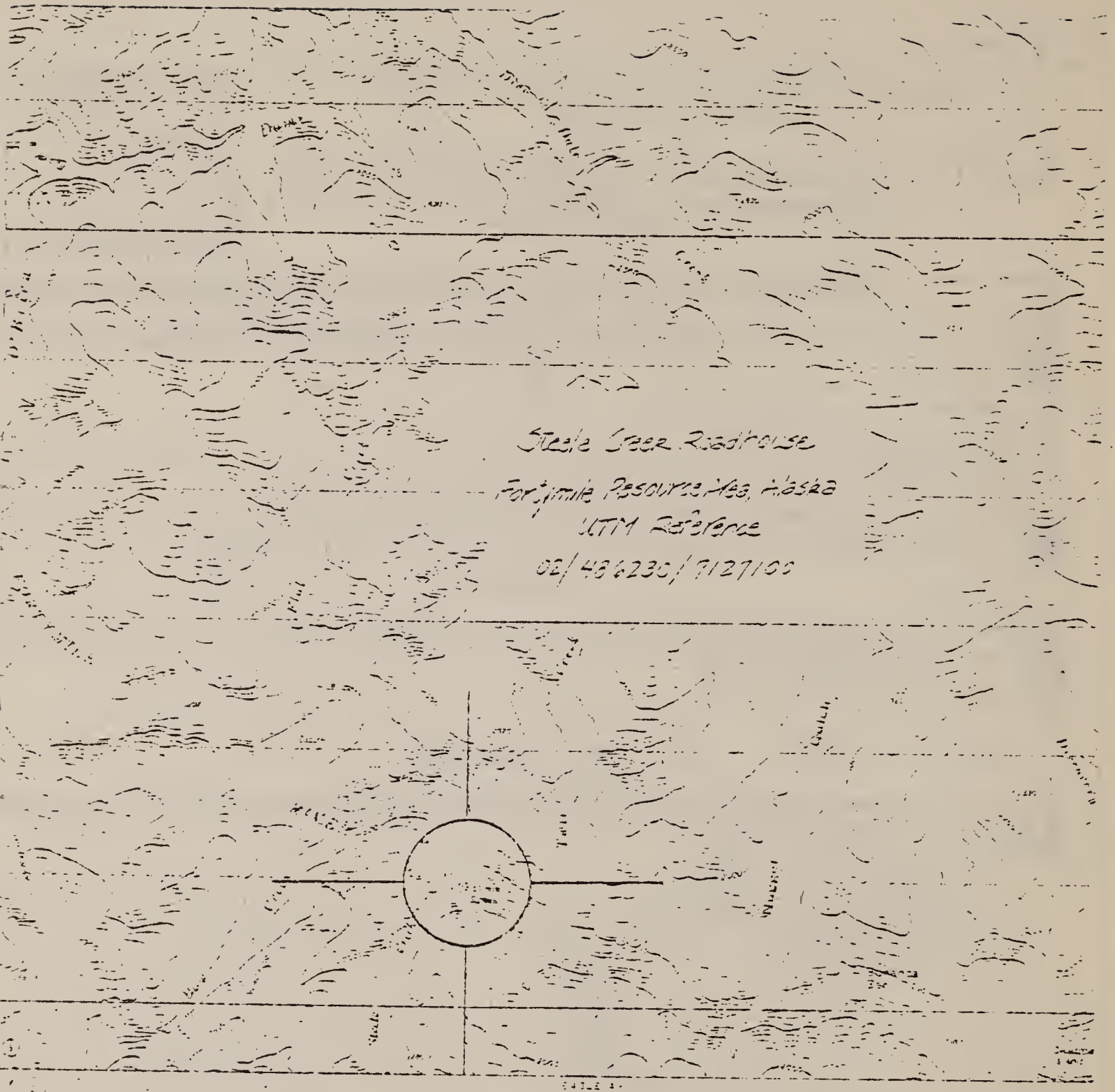
4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES

2. NORTH ARROW

3. UTM REFERENCES



Steele Creek Roadhouse

Fortymile Resource Area, Alaska

UTM Reference

02/486230/7127100

UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY
BULLETIN 1462-A
1972

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Line

AND/OR COMMON

WAMCATS Line, Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Line

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fortymile Resource Area

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Eagle

X VICINITY OF

STATE

CODE

COUNTY

CODE

Alaska

02

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

OWNERSHIP

STATUS

PRESENT USE

X DISTRICT

PUBLIC

X OCCUPIED

AGRICULTURE

MUSEUM

BUILDING(S)

PRIVATE

Mining claim

X UNOCCUPIED

COMMERCIAL

PARK

STRUCTURE

X BOTH

WORK IN PROGRESS

EDUCATIONAL

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

SITE

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

ACCESSIBLE

ENTERTAINMENT

RELIGIOUS

OBJECT

IN PROCESS

YES RESTRICTED

GOVERNMENT

SCIENTIFIC

BEING CONSIDERED

X YES UNRESTRICTED

INDUSTRIAL

TRANSPORTATION

NO

MILITARY

X OTHER Abandoned

4 AGENCY

REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS. (If applicable)

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. BOX 1150

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

VICINITY OF

STATE

Alaska 99707

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Bureau of Land Management, Fairbanks District Office

STREET & NUMBER

1028 Aurora Drive

CITY, TOWN

Fairbanks,

STATE

Alaska 99707

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Alaska Heritage Resource Survey

DATE

FEDERAL X STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR

SURVEY RECORDS

Alaska Division of Parks

CITY, TOWN

Anchorage

STATE

Alaska

Z DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Generally, the trail over which the Fort Egbert to North Fork Section of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System line was built, still remains in its entirety, except in its northern most section near the town of Eagle, where the Taylor Highway and recent development have obliterated any trace of the trail. There are many cabins of unknown origin in this section. Once reaching Teddy's Fork, the trail through the timber is quite evident although the portion of the trail which runs through swampy and permafrost areas becomes indistinct. Line cabins and main telegraph stations have been found in recent aerial and ground investigations, but these are in ruins. The ruins of the main telegraph stations are found on the North Fork of the Fortymile River, two and one half miles above the confluence with the Middle Fork, and on the North Fork across from the mouth of Bullion Creek. Ruins of line cabins can be found at the confluence of Champion Creek and the North Fork, Cub Creek and Champion Creek's meeting, one mile up Cub Creek, and at sites eight, twelve and fifteen miles up Champion Creek from Cub Creek. Along the entire trail weatherbeaten poles and brackets, insulators, and wire can be found intermittently. In some locations the telegraph poles are substituted by tripods, particularly in wet, permafrost areas where single poles could not stand for any length of time. The terrain varies along the route, from wet hummock lowlands, to steep and rocky valley sides.

Beginning at Fort Egbert in Eagle, the WAMCATS line followed American Creek and Teddy's Fork over the ridge into Little Champion Creek. It then went down Champion Creek to the North Fork of the Fortymile River and followed the river down to Bullion Creek. An earlier section went up Cub Creek from Champion Creek and south over the ridge to the North Fork of the Fortymile at Bullion Creek. This section was abandoned for the more easily maintainable complete Champion Creek route. In this manner the nominated WAMCATS line section makes a loop.

Near Eagle, the trail passes over one active mining claim and numerous native allotments.

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION, SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT U.S. Army

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This representative section of the WAMCATS line is significant due to the following reasons:

- A. The unparalleled effort in building this system in 1901-03 by the U.S. Signal Corps and Army Infantrymen under federal appropriations was considered no less than phenomenal by General A. W. Greely, Chief Signal Officer, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.
- B. The Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Lines were instrumental and were the last link in connecting all U.S. Army posts in Alaska to each other and to Washington, D.C. The first telegraphic communications with Washington, D.C. were made from Ft. Egbert to the border and over the Canadian Line in 1901.
- C. All telegraphic messages from Alaska were funneled through these lines and Ft. Egbert (Eagle) retelegraphed them through the Canadian line to the States.
- D. These telegraph lines were the beginning of the military communications system in Alaska that has had a paramount influence in the opening and development of modern Alaska.
- E. A famous American, then the Lt. Billy Mithcell, had his headquarters at Eagle between 1901-03 while directing the construction of the northern segment of the Eagle-Valdez line and exploring the route and building the Goodpaster line.

Discussion follows on Continuation Sheet

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

8

PAGE 1 of 3

The Washington-Alaska Military Cable and Telegraph System was necessary and vital for the operation of military forts in Alaska. The Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Lines and Ft. Egbert at Eagle represent the most significant and key aspects in this all important system. The first messages from Alaska were telegraphed over the Canadian line from Ft. Egbert in 1901. By 1902, Prince William Sound, Valdez, the Copper River Valley, and the Fortymile Country were connected with Ft. Egbert and the outside world. Western and Interior Alaska had telegraphic communications with each other but not to the outside world. Lt. Billy Mitchell was yet to complete the telegraph route on the Goodpaster. Finally on June 27, 1903 Mitchell made the final connection and the Trans-Alaska Telegraph was completed. Ft. Egbert remained the center for all telegraphic operations in Alaska. All messages from Western, Interior, and Southcentral Alaska were funneled through Eagle where they were retelegraphed along the Canadian line to Vancouver, and Washington, D.C.

The telegraph lines were significant in bringing all populated areas in Alaska in direct communications with the States. Besides the military, Alaskans also made use of the system. During the year ending June 30, 1906, 253,338 commercial messages and 53,116 official messages were handled by the Trans-Alaska Telegraph System. The communication system facilitated commerce in Alaska, thus, providing a significant contribution to Alaska and its citizens.

The North Fork of the Fortymile River vicinity represents an isolated and relatively undisturbed section of the line. Two main telegraph stations with typical early Alaskan architecture and three segments of telegraph line are still standing. This area thus is a representative portion of the Trans-Alaska Telegraph. The area can only be reached by helicopter or by flying to the Joseph Airstrip and canoeing 35 miles down the scenic Middle Fork of the Fortymile River to its junction with the North Fork. To complete the journey, one must then continue 40 miles down the North Fork and the main Fortymile River to Milepost 112 on the Taylor Highway. This would complete a 75 mile interesting and highly aesthetic journey through parts of the Fortymile Gold Mining Country and along parts of the telegraph route. The aforementioned rivers are now being studied for possible inclusion in Wild and Scenic Rivers.

As a recent history of the U.S. Army in Alaska noted:

Perhaps of greater and more lasting value to Alaska than all the benefits derived from the discovery of gold was the development of

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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 2 of 3

a communications system which brought the distant populated sections of the Territory together and linked it with the continental United States (The Army's Role in the Building of Alaska).

Prior to WAMCATS completion, to send and receive a message from interior Alaska to Washington, D.C. generally required a year's time. The dramatic increase in activity in Alaska as a result of the various gold rushes made this an intolerable situation, thus creating the WAMCATS system.

The first messages from Alaska were telegraphed over Canadian lines from Ft. Egbert at Eagle (a short 11-mile link connected Eagle with the Canadian border) in 1901. By 1902, Prince William Sound, Valdez, the Copper River Valley, and the Fortymile Country were connected with Ft. Egbert and the outside world via the Eagle to Valdez section.

Preparations were now made to join the Ft. Egbert-Ft. Liscum (at Valdez on Prince William Sound) line to the existing western links. Billy Mitchell reconnoitered to determine where the lines should join and on January 1, 1903, he mushed by dog sled from Eagle to the confluence of the Goodpaster and Tanana Rivers, identifying the route along the Goodpaster drainage. By the end of April the wire had been run from Ketchumstuk to the mouth of the Goodpaster, and on June 27 the final connection was made.

From Nome and St. Michael on the Bering Sea, up the Yukon and Tanana Rivers to Ft. Gibbon, then Fairbanks; from Prince William Sound and Valdez, telegraphic messages could be sent to Eagle. From there they were relayed via Canadian lines to points in the United States. This completed the WAMCAT system.

In 1903-1904, the United States Congress appropriated funds for an ocean cable connection between Valdez and Seattle. By October of 1904, 2,128 miles of submarine cable connected the two points via Skagway and Sitka, and a U.S. controlled Alaska to Washington communications system was a reality.

Military records indicate land lines in Alaska are estimated to have cost \$617 per mile while submarine cables cost about \$452. The 455 miles of line in the Fortymile Country cost the government \$280,735 to construct. During the early years, there were over 200 interruptions of service caused by blizzards, forest fires, vandalism, sleet storms, and high winds.

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NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 8 PAGE 3 of 3

The lines were maintained by detachments of soldiers stationed every 40 miles along the route. Each detachment was made up of one Signal Corps repairman and two infantrymen. Sled dog teams were used for winter transport. When lines were broken, a repairman and an infantryman started out from the repair stations on each side of the break. The first party to reach the break fixed it and awaited the men from the opposite end of the link. After contact was established, both crews returned to their stations.

A combination of the high cost of maintenance, frequent interruptions of service, and advances in wireless communication made 1907 the year in which establishment of a radio system that eventually replaced military land lines in Alaska was begun.

As radio gradually replaced land lines for military purposes, WAMCATS lines were gradually transferred to other agencies such as The Alaska Railroad and Alaska Road Commission. By 1926 the only Signal Corps operated telegraph line in Alaska was the 11-mile Ft. Egbert-Canadian border link, and by December of 1931 all Army traffic was sent via radio and the WAMCATS ended.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

See continuation sheet.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 180 / 25 foot trail corridor

UTM REFERENCES

A 0,2 48,9 5,0,0 7,1 8,5 20,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 0,2 4,52 8,0,0 7,1 4,5 60,0

B 0,2 4,83 4,0,0 7,1 5,7 80,0

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

D 0,2 4,52 6,0,0 7,1 5,7 50,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See continuation sheet.

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
N/A			

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
-------	------	--------	------

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME TITLE James Christopher Bonewitz, Cultural Resource Technician

background information by Gerald Timmons, District Fire Management Officer

ORGANIZATION

Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area

DATE

September 30, 1977

STREET & NUMBER

Box 307

TELEPHONE

907-883-4181

CITY OR TOWN

Tok

STATE

Alaska 99780

12 CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION

YES ☐

NO ☐

NONE ☐

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

In compliance with Executive Order 11593, I hereby nominate this property to the National Register, certifying that the State Historic Preservation Officer has been allowed 90 days in which to present the nomination to the State Review Board and to evaluate its significance. The evaluated level of significance is ☐ National ☐ State ☐ Local.

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 9

PAGE 1 of 1

Bureau of Land Management Cultural Resource Files, Fortymile Resource Area, Tok, Alaska.

Greenfield, Leslie and Hawley, David, A Recreational Resource Management Plan for the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System, 1975. Boulder, Colorado WICHE.

Quirk, William A. III, Historical Aspects of Building the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System, with Special Emphasis on the Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Lines 1902-1903, 1972. U.S. Department of the Interior.

United States Army, Alaska, The Army's Role in the Building of Alaska, 1969. Pamphlet 36Q-5, second edition.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
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INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10

PAGE 1 of 1

Legal description of the Fort Egbert to North Fork Fortymile River section of the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System.

The following list identifies those protracted townships, ranges and sections which the telegraph line transverses.

Fairbanks Meridian

T1S, R32E, Sec. 36
T2S, R32E, Sec. 1, 2, 11, 14, 23, 22, 27, 28, 33
T3S, R32E, Sec. 4, 5, 9, 8, 7
T3S, R31E, Sec. 12, 13, 24, 23, 26, 27, 34
T4S, R31E, Sec. 3, 10, 9, 16, 15, 22, 27, 28, 33, 32, 31
T4S, R30E, Sec. 36, 35, 34, 33, 32, 31
T5S, R30E, Sec. 2
T4S, R29E, Sec. 36, 35, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 19, 32
T5S, R29E, Sec. 3, 4, 9, 8, 17, 20, 19, 30
T4S, R28E, Sec. 24, 23, 14, 15, 22, 21, 28, 29, 32
T5S, R28E, Sec. 3, 10, 15, 22, 27, 34, 35, 36, 25

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC

Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System Line

AND/OR COMMON

WAMCATS Line, Eagle-Valdez and Goodpaster Telegraph Line

2 LOCATION Fortymile Resource Area

CITY, TOWN

Eagle,

X VICINITY OF

COUNTY

STATE

Alaska

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE U.S.G.S.

SCALE 1 : 250000

DATE 1957

4 REQUIREMENTS

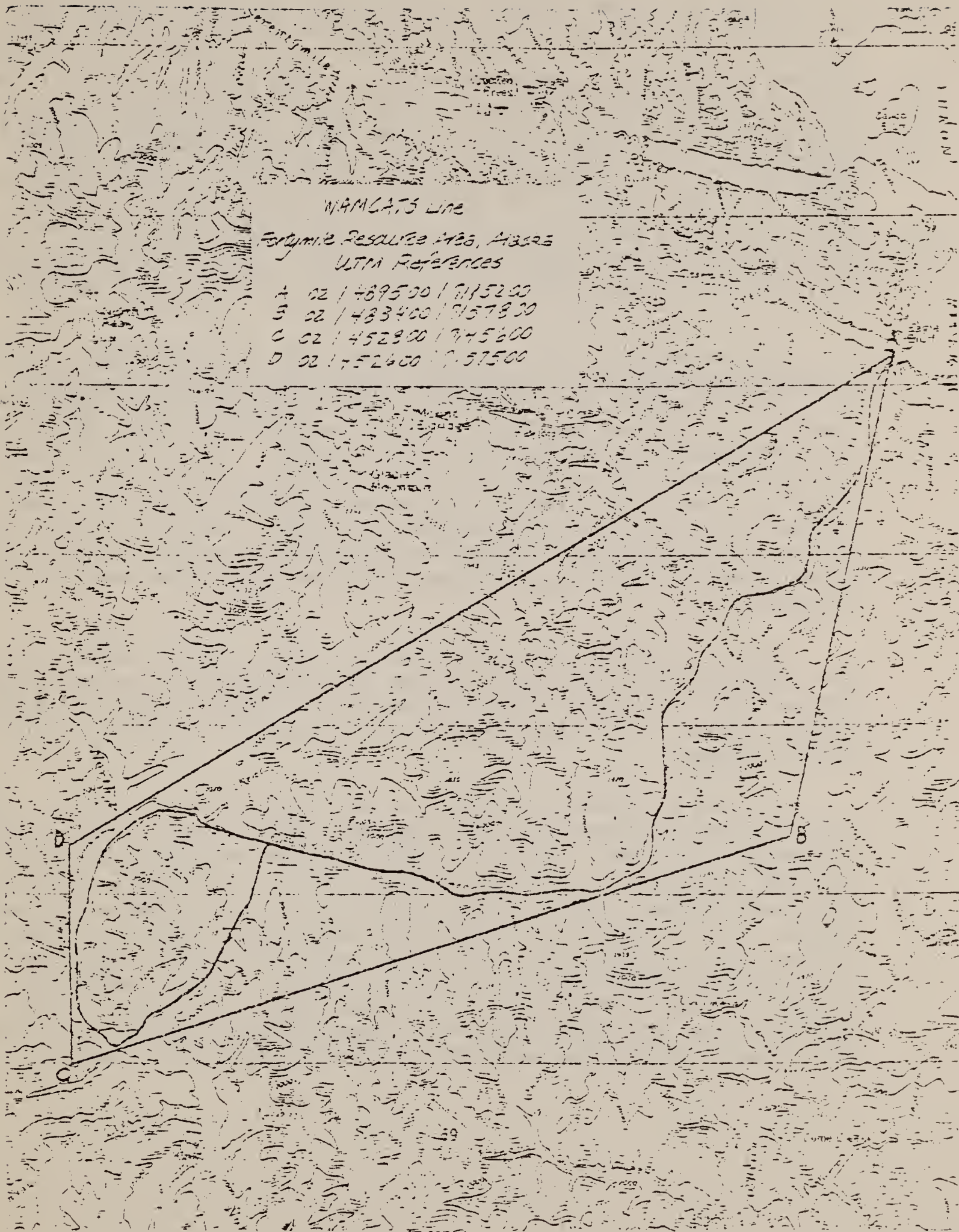
TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

WAMCATS Line

Forty Mile Resource Area, Alaska
UTM References

A	02	1489500	1715200
B	02	1483400	17157800
C	02	1452800	17145600
D	02	1452400	17157500



Cultural Resource Inventory

During the summer of 1976 a study was undertaken to inventory historic sites along selected sections of the Fortymile River. These cultural resources were surveyed in order that the Bureau of Land Management could develop a management plan for the sites in light of the Fortymile Wild and Scenic River proposal. This study encompassed the majority of the Fortymile basin. Sites along the North Fork, Middle Fork, South Fork and main Fortymile were thoroughly inventoried and recorded. Other tributaries included in the Wild and Scenic River corridor withdrawals remained uninventoried. These included the upper South Fork which contains Logging Cabin Creek, the West Fork, the main Dennison Fork, Uhler Creek, and Walker Fork with Wade Creek. Champion Creek and Hutchinson Creek on the North Fork, and O'Brian Creek on the main Fortymile also remained uninventoried.

In the summer of 1977 an attempt was made to complete the cultural resource inventory on the remaining tributaries. Extensive research was done in preparation of the field work to be completed. Maps were checked and verified and the cultural resource files of the Bureau of Land Management Area Headquarters were studied. It was found through various informants that many sites were not represented on the maps. Likewise, some of the sites listed on the maps did not exist. When all of the available information had been collected a series of aerial observations, covering the entire river corridor, were made. Additional sites previously undocumented were discovered and others proved to be nonexistant.

Once the available data was compiled, field surveys began. Due to the remoteness of many sites, and the low water making access by canoe impractical, a helicopter was used to provide transportation to several sites. The remaining sites proved to be accessable by walking from the Taylor Highway.

The same procedure of survey was followed for each location. The condition of the structures was noted and a discription of the surrounding terrain was made. The type of construction was recorded describing building materials, dimensions, methods of corner notching, placement of doors and windows, and all unusual elements of the structure were documented. A list of artifacts that were found about the site was compiled. Photographic documentation of each site was made whenever possible. These photographs are kept on file at the Bureau of Land Management Fortymile Resource Area office. Once the researcher became familiar with the site, additional historic information was obtained from local "old timers" through the help of Terry Haynes and Patrica Quehrn.

A folder was made for each of the undocumented sites and placed on file at the Fortymile Area office. Revisions and additional information were added to the files which already exist on various sites.

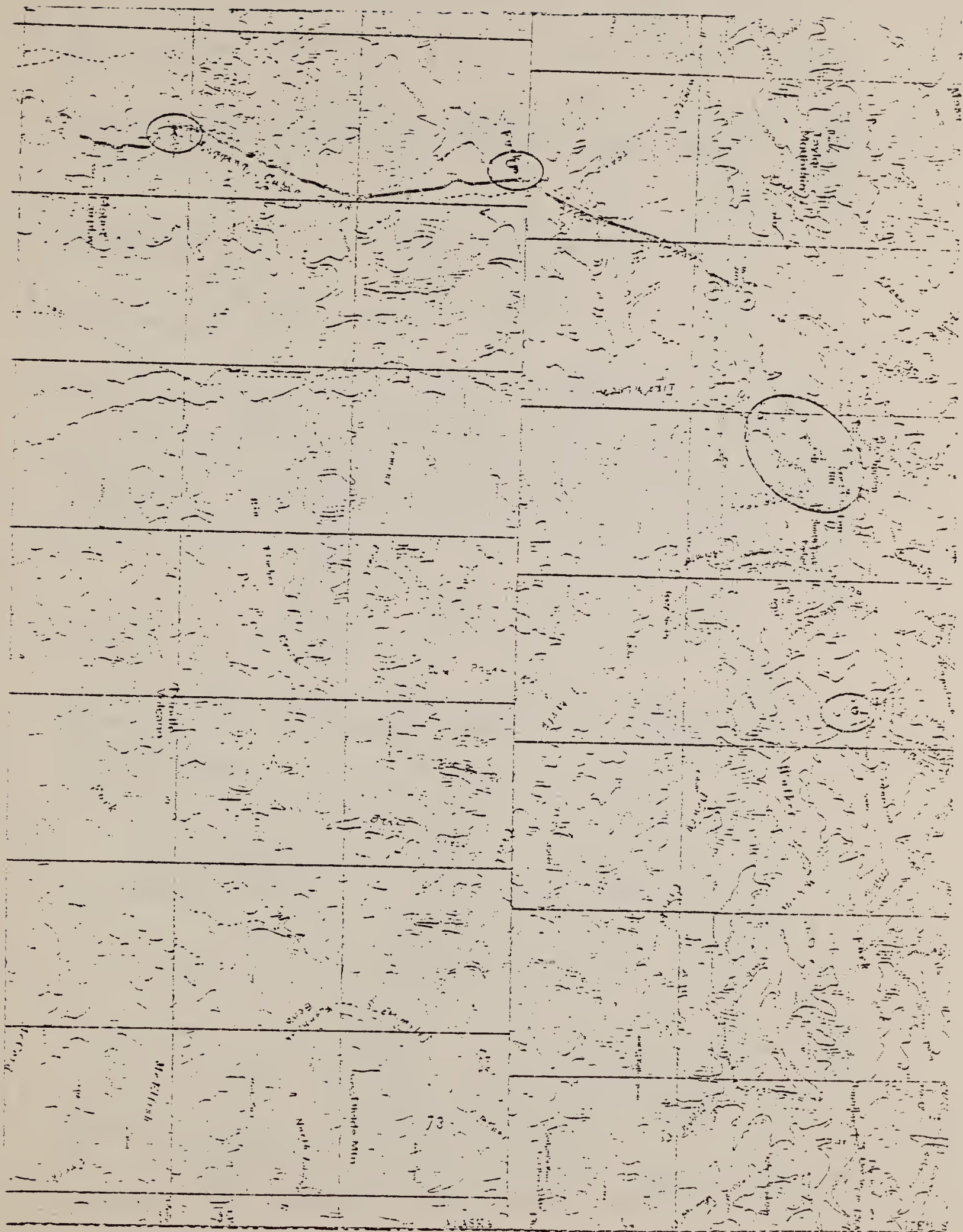
It was not possible to reach all of the uninventoried sites over the summer due to lack of time and the unavailability of transportation. The cultural resources of Champion Creek, Uhler Creek, the Cowden Dredge Camp, and Ekstein's Cabin have yet to be inventoried. It is also possible that some sites within the Fortymile River corridor have been overlooked.

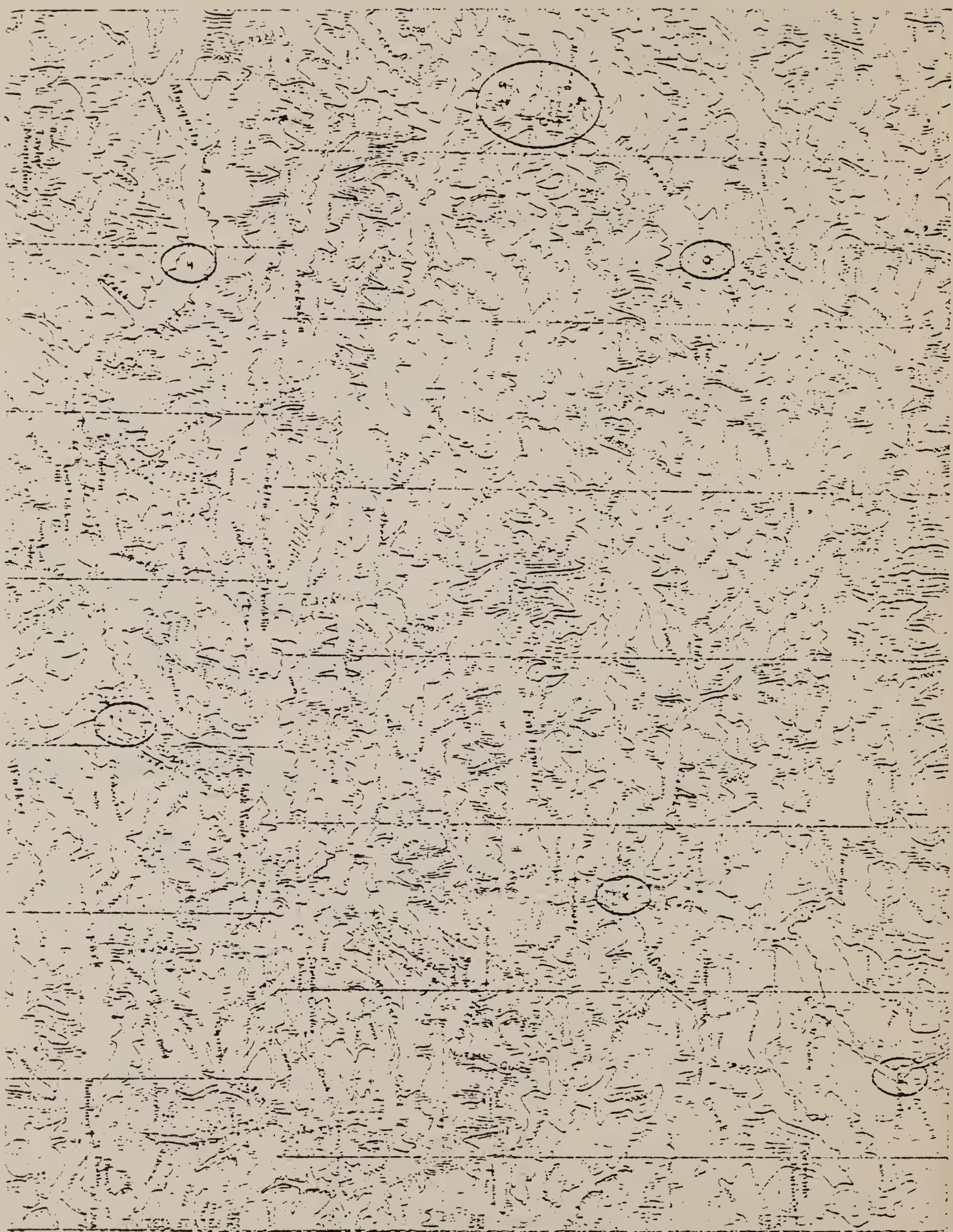
Due to the wealth of artifacts found at some of the sites their exact location will not be published in this report. The location of these sites can be found on file at the Bureau of Land Management, Fortymile Resource Area headquarters, Tok, Alaska.

The following section may be used as a supplement to the inventory completed last summer by Bell and Sullivan: A Cultural Resource Inventory of the Fortymile River.

Cultural Resource Inventory Sites

- A Mount Fairplay Cabin
- B West Fork F-1 Cabins
- C West Fork F-2 Cabins
- D Six Mile Cabin Dennison Fork F-2
- E Dennison Fork Cabin F-1
- F South Fork F-16 Cabins
- G Frank Pratt's Trapping Cabin
- H Taylor Roadhouse Site
- I Wade Creek 1 Mile Cabin Ruins
- J Wade Creek 3 Mile Cabin
- K Dome Creek Shelter Cabin
- L Liberty Cabins
- M Upper Confederate Creek Cabins
- N Lower Confederate Creek Cabins
- O Hutchinson Creek Mining Camp
- P Montana Creek Mining Camp
- Q Hutchinson Creek Sawmill Site





Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Mount Fairplay Cabin

Location Head of Logging Cabin Creek
SE 1/4 Section 3, Township 22N, Range 16E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Tanacross (C-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabin is approx. 1/2 mile east of the Taylor Highway from the Mount Fairplay interpretive wayside. Cabin sits in the valley floor of Logging Cabin Creek and is bordered on two sides by the creek about 10 feet away. The immediate area is open and grass covered with many stumps apparently left from the construction of the cabin.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history This was a trapping cabin.

Architectural data

Cabin measures 15'x12' and is of notch and saddle construction. It is six logs high, but is dug into the ground to a depth of about six feet. It has a sloping pole roof with visquine covered by sod. The chinking is moss.

Artifacts

Misc. cans and jars of recent date, metal plates and pans.

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessability

Walking distance from Taylor Highway

Hazards

Roof is ready to collapse. Sunken floor makes entry difficult. Many holes are dug around the cabin.

Recommendations

Allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number West Fork F-I Cabins

Location Approx. 3/4 mile up the Dennison Fork from the Taylor Highway bridge.

SW 1/4 Section 2, Township 24N, Range 16E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Tanacross (D-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabins sit on the east bank of the river in trees. The area immediately surrounding the site has many sloughs and a great deal of muskeg.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history These cabins are used for trapping operations.

Architectural data

The larger east cabin is of notch and saddle construction and measures 18'x 13'. It has ten rounds of logs and uses moss chinking. The roof is of poles with black visquine under sod and gravel. The front (west side) is open, and the roof extends five feet to the front. A smaller 8'x 15' cabin to the west is seven rounds high with similar type construction. There are three rounds of small logs, just to the north, perhaps the start of a shed or cache.

Artifacts

Articles of recent residence, two interesting handbuilt chairs, and a handbuilt bird feeder

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files

West Fork F-1

Management data

Accessibility

Walking distance from Taylor Highway through muskeg, by river in high water

Hazards

Recommendations

Allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number West Fork F-2 Cabins

Location Approx. 3/4 mile up the Dennison Fork from the Taylor Highway bridge.

SW 1/4 Section 2, Township 24N, Range 16E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Tanacross (D-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabins sit on the east bank of the river and are adjacent to a deep slough which lies about 25' to the north. It is a wooded site isolated by timber and muskeg.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history These cabins are used for a trapping operation.

Architectural data

The cabin nearest the river measures 20'x 10'. Thirty feet to the east lies the largest cabin measuring 20'x 20'. Situated immediately next to it on the east side is a storage cabin measuring 15'x 15'. These cabins are of recent construction and all are built in the notch and saddle fashion. Pole and sod roofs and moss chinking are found on all three cabins. The cabins have commercial wood frame windows and milled plank lumber doors.

Artifacts

Articles from recent inhabitants

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files

West Fork F-2

Management data

Accessibility

Within walking distance of Taylor Highway, by river in high water
Numerous sloughs and muskeg make access difficult

Hazards

Recommendations

An investigation of recent inhabitants should be made.

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Six Mile Cabin, Dennison Fork F-2

Location Approx. 6 miles up the Dennison Fork from its confluence
with the Mosquito Fork
NW 1/4 Section 19, Township 26N, Range 18E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain -
Cabin is located on the west side of the river about 10' from the
bank and faces east. Tundra surrounds the site.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Built by Art Purdy and George Lysell in the 30's.

General history Past and present is a trapping cabin.

Architectural data

Cabin measures 10'x 10' and is of the notch and saddle construction with eight rounds of logs. The chinking is moss and the roof is pole and sod covered with planks which are deteriorated. A door 2'6"x 5'6" faces east towards the river. A window frame, 1'x 2', faces south. A bed built of poles runs the length of the west wall and is three feet wide.

Artifacts

metal dishes, hip boots, an unidentified fur

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files

Dennison Fork F-2

Management data

Accessibility

By river during high water

Hazards

Recommendations

This could be used as a shelter cabin.

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Dennison Fork Cabin F-1

Location On file BLM Fortymile Office, Tok, Alaska

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabins sit on a bluff about 100' above the river on the east bank. The large standing cabin sits in a heavily wooded site about 100 yards south of a smaller cabin with a fallen roof located in open shrubs. The south cabin is leaning badly to the west.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history Unable at this time to find informant.

Architectural data

The standing cabin measures 15'x 19' with a 15'x 7' porch. It is of notch and saddle construction with pole and mud chinking. There are seven rounds of seven to eleven inch logs of which the inside surface is hewn. The roof is of hewn poles covered with sod. Milled planks held to the stringers with dowels are used to hold the sod in place. An eight foot spruce grows from the roof. The porch is built of vertical hewn poles held in place by a top beam of 4"x 6". Small poles covered by canvas form the gable of the porch. The door frame is of milled lumber and faces east measuring 2'10"x 5'8". The window frames in the south and west walls measure 3'x 2'6". The porch floor is plank and hewn floor joists are visible in the cabin. The southeast corner of the roof has collapsed.

The collapsed cabin, one hundred yards north of the above site, measures 15'x 12'. The construction is notch and saddle with mud chinking. The collapsed roof is pole and sod. A plank door, 3'x4', faces east and has an interesting steam hose handle.

Artifacts

Christian Science Monitors (February 26, March 30, April 26, 1920), graniteware, three wooden bed frames, boots, misc. bottles and cans, 18" steam point, Tuxedo Tobacco can, Golden State Butter box, box (O & S Eagle, Aka), Geological Reconnaissance Map of Mt. McKinley Region Alaska by Brooks and Prindle, 1911, other maps

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Unable to find informants at this time

Management data

Accessibility

There appears to be a tractor trail from the north.

Hazards

Roof shows signs of possible collapse.

Recommendations

This cabin is in need of stabilization.
Remove artifacts, post antiquities signs

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number South Fork F-16 Cabins

Location On file BLM Fortymile Office, Tok, Alaska

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Two cabins sit at the base of a large open hill.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history Unable at this time to find an informant.

Architectural data

North cabin is 12'x12' built in the notch and saddle fashion. It has mud and pole chinking with a pole and sod roof. A milled lumber door frame faces south and measures 4'x3'. There is a 1'x1 1/2' window frame on the east side. A five round log doghouse lies twenty feet to the west. The south cabin measures 15'x 20' with eight rounds of eight inch to twelve inch logs put together in the notch and saddle fashion. The chinking is mud and moss. The pole and sod roof is half collapsed on the west side. A window on the south side is 3'x 7' horizontal with two sets of two over two light windows. The glass is still intact. An east window frame measures 3'x 5' vertically and a west window frame is 2 1/2'x 2 1/2'. A porch on the north side is 15'x 7' with vertical pole walls and a plank floor. There are built-in cabinets and closets throughout the structure. Tin and canvas cover the interior walls.

Artifacts

rusted gold pans, chinese checkerboard, wood boxes, leather straps, misc. bottles and jars, rectangular tin bucket, saw horses, Merrell Sole egg powder can, Java coffee can, Klim milk can, lunch pail, San Francisco Examiner Comic Weekly 1940, Redbook 1930, Good Housekeeping 1930, 1902 newspaper, many newspaper pictures, poster of the Materhorn from National Geographic 1912, numerous old newspapers and magazines, log horse (for bucking), ladder

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Managemnet data

Accessability

Walking distance from Taylor Highway

Hazards

East half of roof ready to collapse in south cabin.

Recommendations

Antiquities signs should be posted, remove artifacts

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Frank Pratt's Trapping Cabin

Location Cabin is approx. one mile up Walker Fork from the Walker Fork Campground on the north side of the stream.
SE 1/4 Section 35, Township 22N, Range 19E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabin is located on an open bench 200 feet east from Walker Fork.
The cabin faces east. Out-building ruins lie 30 feet to the south, double doghouse ruins 20 feet to the north, fallen cashe and ladder lie 50 feet to the east of the main cabin.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history Frank Pratt used this cabin when he was running his trap line. He did not build it.

Architectural data

Main cabin is notch and saddle construction, seven logs high and measures 15'x17'. There is a 1'x2' window on the west side, door faces east and measures 4'4"x3'. The roof extends six foot in front but has collapsed. Roof is pole and sod and has a spruce tree, approx. 18', growing on it. Out-building measures 8'x8' and is two feet high; no roof.

Artifacts

Misc. cans, bread pans, saw blades, old sofa, two built-in beds out of 3" poles in the NE and SE corners of the cabin.

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Billy Mildrum

Management data

Accessibility

Tractor trail from Walker Fork Campground

Hazards

Low ceiling

Recommendations

Antiquities signs should be posted.

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Taylor Roadhouse Site

Location Approx. 12 miles up the Mosquito Fork from the Taylor Highway bridge.

NE 1/4 Section 18, Township 27N, Range 17E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Site sits on a raised bank on the south side of the river. The site is divided by a slough, 3 cabins on the south side and 2 structures which appear to be stables on the north side. The area is overgrown and appears not to have been visited in many years.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history This is probabally the sit of the Taylor Roadhouse on the trail from Chicken to Tanana Crossing.

Architectural data

All structures are of the notch and saddle type construction. They have moss chinking and pole and sod roofs. The roofs have collapsed on all of the structures. The large structure on the north side of the slough which appears to be a stable measures 14'x21'6" with nine rounds of logs standing. An interesting feature of this structure is the hay trough made with poles. Wooden boxes are spaced down its length; perhaps used for grain. The smaller building on the north side measures 8'x8' with eight rounds of logs. The three structures on the south side of the slough were living quarters. They measure 14'x14', 16'x13', and 15'x21' respectively.

Artifacts

Rusted cook stove in front of the largest cabin. It is possible that there are many items which are covered by soil and debris.

Informants, references, location in other surveys
Billy Mildrum, Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessibility

Accessable by all terrain vehicle only or by paddling up the Mosquito Fork during high water.

Hazards

Structures are unstable

Recommendations

Investigate for artifacts, allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Wade Creek 1 Mile Cabin Ruins

Location One mile up the Taylor Highway from Walker Fork, about
100 meters west of the road.
NW 1/4 Section 36, Township 27N, Range 19E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Evidence of a cabin lies at the base of a hill in trees on the
valley floor. This Cabin burned.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history Cabin was used by the wood cutters who supplied
the Jack Wade Dredge with fuel.

Architectural data

No structure. Dimensions were approximately 10'x 16'. This cabin was standing 1974 when a survey by BLM personel was made. The reason for its destruction is not known.

Artifacts

Misc. cans and bottles, old clothing

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Fred Terwilliger

A photo of this site may be found The Guide to the Taylor Highway Volume 2, at the Fortymile Area office.

Management data

Accessability

100 yards east of the Taylor Highway

Hazards

Recommendations

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Wade Creek 3 Mile Cabin

Location Three miles north on the Taylor Highway from Walker Fork.
100 meters west of the road.

SE 1/4 Section 24, Township 27N, Range 19E, Copper River Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (A-2), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabin sits on the side of a hill west of the Taylor Highway,
about 10 meters above the level of the road. Cabin faces east
and is surrounded by vegetation.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Unknown

General history Miner's cabin.

Architectural data

Cabin is of notch and saddle construction ten logs high and measures 15'x 15'. The floor is of 1x6 planking. A door on the east side measures 5'6"x3'. Windows on the south and north side measure 40"x 40". The roof is pole and sod of which the northeast corner has collapsed.

Artifacts

55 gallon drum heater, gasoline cans

Informants, references, location in other surveys
Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessibility
Visible from Taylor Highway

Hazards

Recommendations
Allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Dome Creek Shelter Cabin

Location Mile 116 on the Taylor Highway; O'Brian Creek
SE 1/4 Section 33, Township 6S, Range 32E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-1), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabin lies in the wet valley floor of O'Brian Creek. It is about 75' below the level of the Taylor Highway and is visible from the road. The area around the cabin is overgrown. The interior is neat and orderly.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder The cabin was built in the 1920's by the govt.

General history Used as a shelter cabin on the winter trail from Eagle to Chicken. Used today as a trapping shelter.

Architectural data

The cabin is approximately 12'x 14' and is of notch and saddle construction, eight logs high. The door measures 3'x 6' and faces east. A window on the west wall is 1 1/2'x 2' horizontal. The roof is tin.

Artifacts

Recent wine bottles and jars, oil drum stove

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files

Fortymile F-20

Tom Delaney

Management data

Accessibility

Visible from the Taylor Highway

Hazards

Access is hindered by steep embankment.

Recommendations

Cabin needs minor repairs and should be maintained as a shelter cabin.

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Liberty Cabins

Location Mouth of King Solomon Creek, mile 131.6 on Taylor Highway
SW 1/4 Section 10, Township 5S, Range 33E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-1), Alaska

Land ownership status Cabins supposedly owned by Larry Taylor

Site description, position, surrounding terrain

Cabins are located 100' east of the Taylor Highway on an open, flat meadow next to King Solomon Creek. The site consists of three cabins and one barn grouped together.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder Built by the U.S. Government in the 20's.
It is possible that John Powers built the barn and a cabin.

General history Used by horse travelers in the 20's.
John Powers is thought to have used this site on his mail route.

Today, the site appears to be used as a hunting camp.

Architectural data

All cabins are in excellent condition and are constructed in the notch and saddle fashion. All have tin roofs. The barn is raised on wooden pillars and is of frame construction of hewn lumber.

Artifacts

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files

Fortymile F-19

Tom Delaney

Management data

Accessibility

Visible from the Taylor Highway and Libery Fork campground

Hazards

Recommendations

Check land status

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Upper Confederate Creek Cabins

Location 2 miles up Confederate Creek from Hutchinson Creek
NW 1/4 Section 27, Township 7S, Range 27E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabins lie on the hillside, 100 feet north of Confederate Creek
in heavy brush.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder

General history

Architectural data

There are 3 structures in the main group of ruins. The largest structure which is still standing measures 10'x15' with a 10'x8' porch on the west side. It is built with notch and saddle construction and the roof, which is half collapsed, is pole and sod. A collapsed barn with a shingle roof, 12'x7', lies 15 feet to the south. Ruins measuring 12'x7' lie 20 feet to the east. There is a cooler across the creek from this site. The remains of a fence or corral can be found bordering the ruins. 200 yards west lie the ruins of a 15'x15' structure and 200 yards to the east ruins of a 12'x12' structure. Numerous piles of split firewood can be found in the vicinity.

Artifacts

wooden condensed milk boxes, saw blades, tub, numerous old bottles, coffee tea spice and butter cans, ceramic crock, cork screw, lamp base, metal plates and cups, wooden box "U.S. Commissary Ft. Egbert", pole bunk-bed in north-east corner standing cabin

Informants, references, location in other surveys

Management data

Accessibility

Hazards Buildings unstable

Recommendations

Contact Billy Meldrum in Chicken for historical information.
Remove artifacts, allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Lower Confederate Creek Cabins

Location 1 mile up Confederate Creek from Hutchinson Creek
NW 1/4 Section 26, Township 7S, Range 27E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
One standing cabin and three ruins sit next to Confederate Creek
on the north bank. The Area is heavily overgrown.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder

General history A man named Weber lived at this site.

Architectural data

Main cabin measures 15'x18' with seven rounds of logs layed in the notch and saddle fashion. The door frame faces south and measures 2'6"x6'. There are window frames on the east and west sides. The roof is pole and sod and the chinking is moss. Walls of a 12'x9' structure lie 15 feet north of the standing cabin and ruins 8x8 and 7x12 to the east.

Artifacts

rusted pans, axes, 55 gal. drum, table, "No Parking" sign has "Fred Terwilliger July 10, 1968" written on it.

Informants, references, location in other surveys
Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessability

Hazards

Recommendations

Contact Billy Meldrum in Chicken for historical information.
Allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Hutchinson Creek Mining Camp, North Fork F-7

Location Head of Hutchinson Creek
SE 1/4 Section 14, Township 7S, Range 27E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabin, tent frame and ruins of one structure sit in the valley
floor adjacent to the overgrown Hutchinson Airstrip.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder

General history The cabin is called a wanigan. This was a portable building on skids.
The airstrip is thought to have been built by Doc Cripes and Bill Thomas.

Architectural data

All structures are of frame construction. Standing cabin (wanigan) sits between two structures 8'x12' and 7'x12' and measures 10'x14'. It is built out of plywood.

Artifacts

gold pans, wooden boxes, buckets, saw, axe, machinery parts, household goods

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files, North Fork F-7, F-8

Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessibility Hutchinson Airstrip

Hazards Airstrip is in poor condition

Recommendations

Contact Billy Meldrum in Chicken for historical information

Allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Montana Creek Mining Camp, North Fork F-9

Location 1 mile up Montana Creek from Hutchinson Creek
SW 1/4 Section 11, Township 7S, Range 27E, Fairbanks Meridian

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabins are grouped together on the north bank of Montana Creek.
The area is overgrown and quite wet.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder

General history Used as a mining camp by John Ostergard, Charlie Martin and Billy Kirkpatrick starting about 1915. Kirkpatrick utilized the site until the early 1960's.

Architectural data

The largest cabin has collapsed and measures 15'x25'. The roof is pole and sod and the construction is notch and saddle with moss chinking. The standing cabin measures 15'x18' with a 15'x10' porch of vertical planks, on the south side. It is built in the notch and saddle fashion with 10 rounds of logs. The roof is of boards and the chinking is moss. The roof of the porch is plank and is covered with tin from gasoline cans. There is a 12'x3' doghouse built with notch and saddle construction 30 feet to the south. It has a pole and sod roof which is covered with planks. There are three entrance holes. A 12'x8' cashe with notch and saddle construction and a board roof remains standing to the west of the site. A 6'x15' structure to the east has collapsed. The outhouse is standing. There is a cabin one-half mile down the creek measuring approx. 12'x18' which has collapsed.

Artifacts

saws, files, wheelbarrow, traps, shovel, metal sled-runners, wooden boxes, pails, pots and pans, breadpans, teakettle, stool, chairs, table, cabinet, coop for chickens, misc. cans, pair of 6 foot sled-runners lashed with sinew, rectangular box stove 2'x3'x10", Woman's Home Companion Sept. 1940, Judge magazine Oct. 17, 1914, Scientific American 1935

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files, North Fork F-9
Fred Terwilliger

Management data

Accessibility

Hazards Structures are unstable

Recommendations

Contact Billy Meldrum in Chicken for historical information
Remove artifacts, allow to deteriorate

Historical Resource Inventory, Fortymile River

Name and number Hutchinson Creek Sawmill Site, North Fork F-10

Location Approx. 4 miles up Hutchinson Creek from the North Fork of the Fortymile.

Map reference U.S.G.S. Eagle (B-3), Alaska

Land ownership status National Interest Lands

Site description, position, surrounding terrain
Cabin sits uphill from piles of deteriorating logs along Hutchinson Creek's west bank. Three ruins sit on a point east of the creek.

Condition: good, fair, deteriorated, ruins

Historical data

Date and builder

General history

Architectural data

Cabin ruins on west side of Hutchinson Creek are approx. 12'x12'.
The three ruins on the east bank are approx. 14'x20', 12'x18' and
a 18'x36' structure which is divided in half.

Artifacts

Informants, references, location in other surveys

BLM Cultural files, North Fork F-10

Management data

Accessibility

Hazards

Recommendations

Contact Billy Meldrum in Chicken for historical information
Make an on ground investigation.

General conclusions and recommendations

With the completion of the nominations to the National Register, the first step has been taken for the preservation of several historic sites within the Fortymile Resource Area. However, these sites are not yet totally saved. The elements are taking their toll on the structures. For some of the structures the point of no return has passed; nothing remains at the site or the buildings are in a state of ruin. In these cases, such as Moose Creek and the North Fork Station, a detailed archaeological study should be undertaken to determine the original position and size of the structures. An attempt to create a model of the sites should be made. Any artifacts discovered which are relevant to the history of these sites should be placed in a museum within the Fortymile area. Interpretive information should be made available at the sites.

The remaining sites are in a state of disrepair. Immediate stabilization is needed at Franklin, the Steele Creek Roadhouse and the Jack Wade Dredge. Funds should be appropriated to do so. All of these sites provide a potential hazard to the visitor. The floor of the Steele Creek Roadhouse is partly collapsed. The Jack Wade Dredge's walkways on the upper level are deteriorating and unsafe. The roof, walls and floor of the Franklin Schoolhouse are sagging. The roof of the Franklin Roadhouse has collapsed within the last three years, demonstrating that stabilization of the other structures is needed as soon as possible. A qualified architectural consultant should be brought in to these sites to determine the extent of such projects. The private ownership of these structures makes the initiative for restoration work a sensitive situation. All effort should be made by the Bureau of Land Management to gain the cooperation of these owners. Interpretive facilities should be installed at these sites as outlined in other studies.

The condition of the Chicken-Franklin Trail is deteriorating. An effort should be made to control erosion which is taking place on some sections of the trail. Brush should be cut away in the overgrown areas and the trail should be marked where indistinct. It is possible that the Tanacross Youth Conservation Corps could be utilized for this project. Residents mining in the area should be informed of the proposed trail and an easement should be sought if necessary. An interpretive site describing the trail should be set up at the trailheads in Chicken and Franklin.

Although shortened in length now, the WAMCATS trail should be developed as outlined in the report: A Recreational Resource Management Plan for the Washington-Alaska Military Cable And Telegraph System, by Greenfield and Hawley. Private landowners should be contacted for concurrence and interpretive sites should be developed.

The future of Mitchell's Ranch is uncertain: a native allotment is pending. If this land allocation is granted the property owner should be contacted and the nature of the National Register explained to him. At this time Mitchell's Ranch shows little sign of advancing deterioration, hence, no immediate architectural stabilization work is needed.

Generally, the outlook for the cultural resources of the Fortymile Area looks good. The Bureau of Land Management has done an exceptional job in identifying the area's historic values and has moved in a positive direction in preserving and managing its valuable links to the past. Unfortunately, there is no control over individuals and their mistreatment of such resources as witnessed by vandalism and removal of artifacts at many sites within the Resource Area. It is hoped that through better education of the public regarding the Antiquities Act and various other preservation legislation, and by helping develop an appreciation for such historic wealth through interpretation, that the Fortymile Resource Area will be able to retain its pieces of heritage, in contrast to:

Miners level a town to thwart BLM 'plans'

DENALI, Alaska (AP)—Two disgruntled miners bulldozed most of this turn-of-the-century gold mining ghost town into rubble in the mistaken belief that federal officials planned to turn it into a tourist attraction.

Brothers Doug and Dave Clark acknowledged that they leveled the town where they hold mining claims but say they took the action only after discovering that the Bureau of Land Management secretly planned to designate the abandoned mining community as a historic site.

But BLM officials say they have no such plans and are investigating whether the miners had any legal right to destroy the buildings.

Dave Clark says he regretted running a bulldozer through the town, but said he and his brother concluded it was the only way to keep possession of their mining claims.

"I'm not kidding," Clark said. "I had tears in my eyes as I knocked down the old hotel. There were dates carved on the boards back to 1912, and I enjoy old things like that right along with the next guy."

Before the Clarks brought in the bulldozer, the old town about 150 miles northwest of Anchorage on the Denali Highway contained a two-story

bunkhouse, a general store, buildings for processing gold, a post office and cabins.

During the Alaska gold rush, more than 100 miners worked out of Denali and for the last half a century the old buildings had weathered the vagaries of six-foot-deep snow packs, 50-below temperatures and tourists in search of relics.

Now the post office is one of the few buildings left standing. It is being used as a residence by the Clark brothers.

Fairbanks
Daily News-Miner
August 26, 1977

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This intern report was read and accepted by a staff member at:
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This report was completed by a WICHE intern. This intern's project was part of the Resources Development Internship Program administered by the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education (WICHE).

The purpose of the internship program is to bring organizations involved in community and economic development, environmental problems and their students in the West for the benefit of all.

For these organizations, the intern program provides the problem-solving talents of student manpower while making the resources of universities and colleges more available. For institutions of higher education, the program provides relevant field education for their students while building their capacity for problem-solving.

WICHE is an organization in the West uniquely suited for sponsoring such a program. It is an interstate agency formed by the thirteen western states for the specific purpose of relating the resources of higher education to the needs of western citizens. WICHE has been concerned with a broad range of community needs in the West for some time, insofar as they bear directly on the well-being of western peoples and the future of higher education in the West. WICHE feels that the internship program is one method for meeting its obligations within the thirteen western states. In its efforts to achieve these objectives, WICHE appreciates having received the generous support and assistance of the National Endowment for the Humanities, the Washington State Office of Community Development CETA Program, the Colorado Department of Labor and Employment; and by more than one hundred and fifty community agencies throughout the West.

For further information, write Bob Hullinghorst, Director, Resources Development Internship Program, WICHE, P. O. Drawer 'P', Boulder, Colorado 80302 or call (303) 443-6144.

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